



## THOUSANDS RAISED TO RESTORE VC HERO'S VANDALISED GRAVE



Damaged grave of Colour Sergeant Anthony Booth, inset

VOLUNTEERS working to restore the vandalised grave of a Victoria Cross war hero in Brierley Hill said they were 'overwhelmed' after a public campaign raised more than £3,000 in just a few days.

Members of the Victoria Cross Trust are confident the donations will be enough to bring the grave back up to the standard fitting of a war hero.

A crowd-funding page was launched by the trust after the shocking vandalism was discovered last week – sparking outrage across the Black Country.

The headstone marking the resting place of Zulu War hero Colour Sergeant Anthony

Booth, at St Michael's Church, in Brierley Hill, was pushed over and damaged.

The fundraising total surpassed £3,000 this week with individual pledges as high as £100. Gary Stapleton, chief executive of the Victoria Cross Trust, which works to restore graves of VC war heroes, said a rededication ceremony was being planned.

Mr Stapleton said: "It is so touching for so many people to have come forward from all over the country. It is very difficult to say how much it will cost but it will be more than enough. Any money not used will be put towards other Victoria Cross graves."

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler,

said: "This is a man who put his life on the line to save others and needs to be treated with respect. I was appalled by what happened."

A £2,000 reward was put up by a member of the Royal British Legion's Dudley branch for information leading to the prosecution of the vandals.

Col Sgt Booth, of William Street, Brierley Hill, was awarded the Victoria Cross by Queen Victoria in recognition of the bravery he showed leading his men to safety after coming under attack from Zulu warriors.

The desecration of Col Sgt Booth's grave has led to widespread condemnation.

### HOSPITAL

## Patients flee in A&E false alarm

PATIENTS were evacuated from a unit at Russells Hall Hospital on Monday after a fire alarm sounded.

Fire crews attended the hospital but it turned out to be a false alarm.

The A&E department was evacuated for a short period during the scare.

The site was checked over by firefighters after the alarm went off around 10.50am but the building was given the all clear.

Russells Hall confirmed that A&E was evacuated but said that the patients were quickly allowed back inside after checks were made.

### BUILDING

## New era begins for church after blaze

A CHURCH which suffered a devastating fire will be opening its newly-refurbished auditorium next month.

The Zion Christian Centre, which has been based in Halesowen for 40 years, changed its name to Lifecentral Church earlier this year. It will include a 400-seater auditorium with new offices and toilets at the site in Little Cornbow.

The official opening of the new facilities will take place on September 15.

### AUCTION

## Fresh hope for new homes on estate site

A FORMER industrial estate has been put up for auction for up to £500,000, raising fresh hopes for a housing development.

Planning permission has already been secured to flatten the Bridge Trading Centre, High Street, Wordsley, and create nine homes but no developer has yet come forward. SDL Bigwood put the site under the hammer at Villa Park on September 6.

### INSIDE

## BRUCIE IN THE BLACK COUNTRY



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# Bid to recruit in Philippines is unsuccessful 60 NURSES HIRED TO TACKLE CRISIS

RUSSELLS Hall hospital has taken on 60 nurses and midwives in a bid to tackle its ongoing staffing crisis. Health chiefs at the Dudley hospital have hired an extra 38 new nursing graduates, 12 new children's nurses and 10 new midwives over the last few weeks.

It comes after The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, held an 'unsuccessful' recruitment drive in the Philippines. Another attempt to fill roles will take place at the Pensnett Road site today (Thursday).

Siobhan Jordan, interim chief nurse at the trust, said: "Our visit to the Philippines was not successful and we are now focusing our search closer to home with the hopes of attracting some of the fantastic home-grown talent we know are out there."

"Despite a widely-recognised national nurse and midwife shortage across the NHS, we have successfully recruited 38 new nursing graduates, 12 new children's nurses and 10 new midwives in the last few weeks."

### Dedicated

"To support our permanent workforce, we also have a team of dedicated health professionals who prefer to work more flexibly on our staff bank."

It was reported in May that staffing levels at the hospital had not been at a level considered safe between October and April, due to recruitment problems, sickness and intense pressure on the accident and emergency department. This sparked a desper-

### Report by Luke Bartlett

ate search to fill vacancies, including efforts to hire nurses from overseas.

Ms Jordan added: "We do, of course, welcome applications from nurses of all nationalities and already have a vibrant community of international nurses here in Dudley. We know there are many people who are qualified nurses in their home countries who, due to differences in the registration process, are currently working as support workers or care assistants."

"We are committed to helping these nurses return to practice and have launched a dedicated programme to support them in gaining Nursing and Midwifery Council registration. This is a paid programme and, on completion, they will receive a permanent contract with the trust."

Visit [www.facebook.com/DudleyGroupNHS/events](http://www.facebook.com/DudleyGroupNHS/events) or call Philippa Brazier on (01384) 456111 extension 3469

## Musical talent is crystal clear



Composer Andy Garbi rehearses on his glass instrument with trumpet player Callum Chin-See, aged 11

A SPECIAL concert using glass instruments is taking place this weekend as part of the International Festival of Glass in Wordsley.

Andy Garbi's Vitrescence: Becoming Glass is being performed at the historic Red House Glass Cone on Saturday at 8.30pm. The award-winning artist and composer has developed a number of glass instruments for the show, alongside the

cone's glass artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin. The concert will take advantage of the unique acoustics of the 100ft high, 18th century glass cone chimney.

Tickets, costing £10 and including a glass of wine, can be booked on (01384) 812750. For more information about the festival visit [www.rmlt.org.uk/international-festival-of-glass](http://www.rmlt.org.uk/international-festival-of-glass)

● Glass act – see page 4

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**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205  
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:** Tel: 01902 319430  
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

**ADVERTISING:** Emma Parkes  
Tel: 01384 353234  
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**PROPERTY:** Colin Bailey  
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**MOTORING:** Liz Barratt  
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# Patient leaves hospital after 500 days

AN elderly patient has finally left a hospital after spending more than 500 days in a bed – despite being medically fit to be discharged.

The woman spent a staggering 16 months at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley as her discharge was delayed by a disagreement about her future care.

But the delay caused consternation with one senior councillor in Dudley, who claimed it was a waste of resources.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said the patient, who spent around 510 days on the wards, wanted to be cared for at home but that couldn't be

delivered by the NHS. She has instead been moved to a care home.

Ms Wake said the hospital had worked to try and find a resolution to suit all parties but efforts had 'not been successful' and it was crucial resources 'are used responsibly'.

She said: "A patient who has been medically fit for more than 500 days is being discharged to a nursing home where her ongoing care needs can be met."

"Clinicians from both the nursing home and hospital are confident that her care will be delivered safely in a nursing home environment. Unfortunately, her wish to be cared for at home with

24-hour nursing care cannot be met by the NHS currently.

"We have worked extremely hard with the patient, her family and Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group to find a resolution but this has not been successful."

"It is very important that NHS resources are used responsibly and shared fairly. When a medically fit patient remains in hospital, it means that the bed is not available to treat other patients requiring acute care."

Councillor Ian Kettle, who sits on the council's cabinet, said it was 'alarming' that a patient could take up a bed for so long.

# Traveller transit camp is on way for borough

**A TRAVELLERS' holding camp will be in place next year in Dudley but hundreds of angry residents would rather see hot spots sealed off.**

The transit camp will provide a place for travellers to stay when they arrive in the borough rather than pitching up on unauthorised land.

It is expected the new site – to be ready by May next year – will cut the amount of illegal camps by 70 per cent. There have been 11 unauthorised encampments so far this year costing taxpayers £50,000 in cleaning up costs.

Around 200 residents, who packed out a public meeting last week demanding answers, said they would rather see measures put in place to stop travellers gaining access to sites, such as a moat or bollards.

But this was played down by council chiefs who said fortifying all 3,000 potential sites in Dudley would cost around £1 million.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "This behaviour recently has been unacceptable. This is why we have taken a tougher stance. The long term solution to rid the borough of this problem is to introduce a transit site."

## Secure

Alan Lunt, Dudley's strategic director, said: "We do not have that money to secure all the sites. Security does not work either, it does not prevent incursions."

Questions were also directed at West Midlands Police with the force being accused of not doing enough to tackle travellers.

But this was dismissed by Superintendent Phil Dolby, the force's lead on unauthorised encampments, who said his team often had difficulty arresting travellers for crimes such as criminal damage as it was difficult to narrow it down to the individual.

A location for the proposed transit site has not yet been decided on.

## Flats get green light despite concerns



The block of shops in Kingswinford due to be replaced by new flats now planners have given the go-ahead

A £2 million project to demolish an empty row of 'eyesore' shops in Kingswinford and replace them with housing has been approved by Dudley Council planning bosses.

The three-storey building will make way for 16 flats on Beech Road.

Kingswinford South ward councillor Patrick Harley, who is also council leader, has welcomed the plan.

He said: "Some of the shops have been empty for the best part of 25

years. As a resident that has lived around the corner for many years and as a ward councillor, it is about time and I feel this is long overdue."

"I would urge the council to get on with it, we don't want anymore delays."

"New homes are always needed. I very much welcome this."

## Parking

Three objections were handed in to Dudley Council's planning committee outlining concerns about

parking, anti-social behaviour and the height of the new development.

The flats will be three-storeys and include 12 two-bedroom flats and four one-bedroom flats. The current site has five empty ground floor shops with vacant rooms on the first and second floor.

One resident who objected to the plans said: "The site is on a junction with Beech Road and Poplar Road and the parking spreads along both roads causing access problems."

# 17-year-old was kicked in head during party violence

A 17-year-old was left with serious head injuries after a birthday party exploded into violence, a judge heard.

Fighting broke out in the car park of the Spring Meadow Social Club in Cradley Heath. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the victim was floored by a single punch from Sennan Ali, 19, and then kicked in the head while lying motionless on the ground by Rashaun Reid, also 19.

The injured youth was unconscious when paramedics reached the scene on February 27 last year, said Miss Lynette McClement, prosecuting. He was found to be suffering from a fractured skull and a bleed on the brain. At hospital he was put in an induced coma but has since made a good recovery.

Ali admitted causing grievous bodily harm on the first day of his proposed trial and gave evidence against Reid who was convicted of a similar offence. Both were of previous good character.

Ali from Orchard Road, Netherton, was given 16 months detention in a Young Offenders Institution suspended for 18 months and ordered to pay a total of £750 in compensation and costs. Reid of Petford Street, Cradley Heath received two years detention suspended for 18 months with 200 hours unpaid work and £1,250 compensation and costs.

## Teenager attacked by masked gang

AN investigation has been launched after a 17-year-old girl was assaulted by a masked gang.

She was walking alone along Mount Road in Wombourne when she was confronted by three people wearing ski masks and dark clothing.

The girl was struck in the ribs and knocked to the ground before the attackers ran off.

The incident happened around 4.15pm on Monday, August 14.

Staffordshire Police is investigating the attack and has asked anyone with information to call 101, quoting incident number 536 of 14/08/17. Or call Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Trampoline centre bounces into town

A NEW trampoline centre will be opening in Dudley, creating 33 jobs.

Leap Dudley has been given the green light to convert a former warehouse on Birmingham Road, opposite Tesco, into the trampoline park.

The facility will feature 64 trampolines, plus restaurant, soft play area, sensory room and multi-sports area.

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# Nurses not trained to examine lady patients

A MEDICAL centre allowed women's examinations to be carried out by un-trained nurses.

Bath Street Medical Centre in Sedgley has been rated as 'inadequate' following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission, which said patient safety was at risk.

The regulator revealed women who were not comfortable being assessed by the male GP were instead seen by female nurses but they were not trained to do so.

Paul Maubach, chief executive of Dudley CCG which runs the site, said: "We will work with the practice to ensure immediate action is taken to address the concerns raised."

Inspectors from the health watchdog gave the medical practice the lowest rating for the categories of 'safety' and 'leadership'.

Inspectors found the centre 'required improvement', which is the second lowest rating, for effectiveness, care and being responsive.

## Breast

An inspector said using nurses not trained to carry out gynaecology examinations and breast examinations posed the risk of women receiving false reassurance.

Sabina Begum, deputy manager at Bath Street Medical Centre, said: "The quality and standard of care that we provide to patients is of great importance to us. In response to the inspection we took immediate action to address the inspector's concerns. We are disappointed with the report's overall finding and we are disputing the accuracy of the report. If any of our patients have any concerns they should contact the practice where we will be happy to discuss these."

# Teenager struck by car on busy road

A TEENAGE girl suffered head and leg injuries when hit by a car on a busy road in Dudley on Friday morning.

The girl was struck by the vehicle near the junction of Birmingham New Road and Priory Road.

The major road was blocked to traffic after police and paramedics arrived at the scene at around 9.45am. Ambulance spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said the girl was fully conscious.

# Markets planned

A FLEA market and antique sale will be held on Sunday at Halfpenny Green airport, Bobbington, from 8am to 4pm. The next day, a farmers and artisans market is being held.

# Woman stabbed to death with swordstick



Murder victim Tina Billingham

FOUL tempered Ronald Cooke is starting at least 24 years behind bars after savagely murdering his partner of 17 years.

The 55-year-old was furious with Tina Billingham because he had been stopped from going to see a camper van offered for sale and blamed her for missing the bargain after she had to collect her elderly uncle from hospital.

Burly Cooke goaded the slightly built 5ft 4ins tall 54-year-old, repeatedly prodding her with a plastic bottle on the trip to the hospital from their

home in Granville Road, Old Hill, on February 6.

Then he stopped their van, reached for the sword stick he kept in the vehicle and stabbed her twice through the heart and liver.

The callous car dealer then drove straight to her GP's surgery at Rowley Healthcare in Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis where he told staff she had stabbed herself. Paramedics took her to hospital where she was certified as dead the same day.

Cooke had a 'fascination' with knives, swords and bayonets as well

as a history of aggressive, destructive behaviour. Miss Billingham was frightened of him and was driven to depression by his bullying.

Judge James Burbidge QC told Cooke: "She was selfless. You were entirely selfish. You took a ferocious weapon and thrust it into her body twice. You had treated her abysmally all day over a trifle. You had been delayed in viewing a camper van."

Miss Billingham's son Jack - she had two children from an earlier marriage - said: "A huge part of our life has been taken from us."

# Baby dies after being sent home by doctor

A MOTHER woke up to find her eight-week-old baby dead, just hours after being told to take her home by a doctor at an urgent care centre.

Emma George claims the out-of-hours doctor at the centre at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley did not carry out a proper physical examination on baby Felicity.

After the baby's temperature was checked, the 24-year-old says she was told 'you look like a sensible mother bring her back tomorrow if she is any worse'. But 12 hours later Mrs George and husband, Lee, 29, woke up at home in Brierley Hill to find Felicity had turned blue and was not breathing. Baby Felicity was rushed by ambulance to hospital but was later pronounced dead from sepsis.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group has offered condolences to the family and said it is investigating the incident.

Mrs George said: "Felicity was unwell so I took her to the urgent care centre but the doctor carried out no thorough checks. He told me there was a six-hour wait at A&E. He said: 'You look like a sensible mother, if she gets any worse bring her back tomorrow'. In the morning I woke up and found she had turned blue and was not breathing."

## Resuscitate

"We rushed her to A&E. They stopped trying to resuscitate her at 7.50am. It is heartbreaking, we feel completely let down by the doctor and do not know where to turn."

As well as complaining to the CCG, the family is also raising money for an operation to reverse a vasectomy Lee underwent in January - two months before Felicity was born.

They need £3,500 to pay for the operation and have started an online fundraiser, which has so far raised almost £1,500. Mrs George, who grew up in Halesowen, said: "We'll never replace Felicity, but we just want her to be a big sister. We have contacted our GP, but have been told only in exceptional circumstances can it be paid for on the NHS."

The couple have three boys - a seven-year-old from Mr George's previous relationship, a four-year-old from Mrs George's previous relationship along with a two-year-old together.



Emma and Lee George - heartbroken



Baby Felicity died after mother told to take her home



Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where baby Felicity was seen by a doctor at the urgent care centre

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Voters are urged to check details

RESIDENTS are being urged to ensure they are registered to vote in upcoming elections.

Dudley Council is running its annual voter registration canvass and thousands of letters have hit door-mats across the borough as part of the drive.

People are being asked to check the details are up to date and highlight any residents who are not registered. They can respond by either text, email, website or post.

Sarah Norman, chief executive and electoral registration officer at Dudley Council, said: "It is important that people take the time to check their details and let us know if there are any changes."

"Being registered to vote means that you have a big role to play in shaping hundreds of council services across the borough, but if you're not registered you can't have your say."

For further details see the [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) website.

# Peppa puts in an appearance at pub

A DUDLEY pub is holding a bank holiday fun day on Monday.

Popular children's cartoon character Peppa Pig will be putting in an appearance at the family event in Upper Gornal, which also includes a bouncy castle and face painting.

The Spills Meadow in Kent Street is hosting the event from noon to 5pm. Tickets costing £6 need to be bought in advance from the pub and include a meet and greet with Peppa Pig.

# Boating festival needs more help

ORGANISERS of the annual Black Country Boating Festival are seeking more volunteers.

The 32nd annual festival takes place along the canal at Windmill End, Netherton, on September 9 and 10.

Anyone who can spare an hour or two during the festival weekend should contact Paddy Grice via e-mail to [paddy@bcbf.com](mailto:paddy@bcbf.com) or call him on 0844 800 5076.

The festival is open to the public from 10am to 5pm each day with free admission and parking.

# Toffee factory offers a sweet opportunity

THE former Bluebird Toffee Factory in Halesowen is available for let.

The famous confectionery company left the Hunnington site in 1998 and the former offices and warehouse are currently being advertised by Dudley-based Sellors Surveyors.

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## Mother in plea to Run for Joel

RUNNERS have been urged to sign up for a fun run to raise money for a charity set up by the family of terror attack victims. The Run for Joel event takes place next month at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

It will raise money for Smile for Joel, set up in memory of Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Pat Evans, all killed in the Tunisian beach terror attack in 2015. People have been encouraged to join the run at the country park in West Bromwich by Joel's mother Suzy Evans. It takes place on Sunday, September 10, obtain sponsor forms at smileforjoel.com website.

## Coroner's court opens its doors

DUDLEY'S historical coroner's court will be throwing open its doors to the public as part of Heritage Open Day next month.

The event, on September 9, is a celebration of the country's architecture and culture, and venues not usually open to the public allow access to enable visitors to discover the hidden treasures lying within.

The Coroner's Court, located on St James's Road, Dudley is a Grade II\* listed building, was designed by Harvey & Wicks, and built between 1924 and 1928, as part of the civic quadrant. For more details on go to www.heritageopendays.org.uk

## Childline support over exam worries

CHILDLINE is offering support to young people worried about exam results as teenagers receive AS and A-Level grades.

Over the last three years, the NSPCC-run service has delivered 464 counselling sessions over the phone and online from its Birmingham base to young people from across the UK who are worried about exam results.

Children and young people can contact Childline on 0800 1111 or at www.childline.org.uk website.

## Police cadets scheme is set to be launched

A POLICE cadets scheme will be launched in the autumn at schools in Birmingham and Sandwell after the start of the new school year with plans to expand across the region in 2018. Pupils at Washwood Heath Academy, Holte School, Shireland Academy and Holly Lodge Science College will have the first opportunity to sign up as Volunteer WMP Cadets. The last time there was police cadets in the West Midlands was 1997.

# Group swoop in to buy Ramada hotel

HOTELIER Redwings Lodge Group has ambitious plans for expansion after taking over The Ramada hotel in Oldbury. The new owners want to extend the hotel, adding a new restaurant and further bedrooms.

The 81-bedroom hotel and conference centre had been owned by Wolverhampton businessman Gurjit

Mahal, who bought it out of administration in 2012.

It is now the sixth hotel in the Redwings chain, which includes a lodge on the Wolverhampton ring road.

The hotel, in Wolverhampton Road, was sold by specialist business property adviser Christie & Co, which said the Ramada Birmingham Hotel in

Oldbury was put up for sale following a huge turnaround in business performance following its acquisition by Mr Mahal five years ago, said: "The Ramada opened in 2008 and also includes a restaurant and four function rooms, which are extensively used for conferences, events and weddings. We knew it would generate a lot of in-

terest once on the market. Redwings Lodge is very happy to be associated with the Ramada brand and plans to extend the property."

Mr Mahal bought the hotel, which employs around 35 people, a year after former owners, the Brierley Hill-based Fortmere Group, went into administration in 2011.

# Artwork at festival really is a glass act

By Heather Large

**STUNNING** artwork from across the globe has arrived in Stourbridge for the International Festival of Glass, opening tomorrow (Friday).

The team at the Ruskin Glass Centre have been carefully unwrapping more than 60 delicate pieces that make up the entries in its flagship event, the British Glass Biennale.

Sixty-two contemporary artists based in Britain and working abroad were selected for the competition from around 230 applicants. Their prized creations are ready to take pride of place for the awards ceremony today.

"The Biennale is a really good representation of the best of British glass and is highly regarded around the world," said curator Matt Durran.

All work in the Biennale is available for purchase and the event attracts collectors, galleries and museums from around the world. For the first time, there will also be a Biennale shop allowing visitors to purchase a smaller piece created by artists in the exhibition, ranging from a few pounds up to £2,000. Visitors can view the exhibition until September 9.

### Piano

Artist Karlis Bogustovs is bringing a touch of glass to the musical world as he plays his one-of-a-kind glass piano. The Latvian-born skateboarder, who has been making waves in the art world, is even inviting visitors to have a go. His amazing creation was previously displayed at London's Canary Wharf.

From live music to circus performers, there is a feast of other entertainment at the festival which runs from August 25 to 28.

The Red House Glass Cone is dusting off its red carpet in preparation for Andy Garbi's Vitrescence: Becoming Glass. The multi award-winning sound artist, singer and composer and he has worked with the cone's resident glass artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin to develop glass instruments for the piece. Andy, who is originally from Wolverhampton, has also collaborated with Brierley Hill-based engineer Steve Snaith. His audio-visual event will celebrate and explore the nature of glass

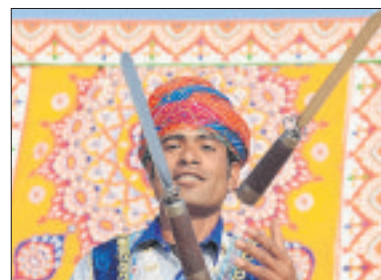


Curator Matt Durran unpacks one of the fragile exhibits for the international glass festival



Made from old window panes, the glass piano is unique by using these glass instruments designed to react with the unique acoustics of the 100ft high 18th century glass cone chimney. The performance art is taking place at 8.30pm on Saturday at the Red House Glass Cone and costs £10 per ticket.

Known for their daring feats, Circus Raj will be thrilling the audience at Glasshouse Art College at 7pm on Monday. A film festival, featuring movies old



Juggling knives is just one of the Circus Raj stunts and new from around the world with glass as a theme will take be held at the Ruskin Glass Centre. There will also be jazz at the Rose and Crown from 9pm tomorrow and The Crick Crack Club will be bringing storytelling to the Ruskin Glass Centre at 7.30pm on Sunday. The following day, at the same venue, will be a performance, exploring the unique sounds of glass-making, called Fusion and Fluidity at 2.30pm.

# Pathology hub will be run as one service

A MULTI-million pound pathology service will be run between four Black Country NHS Foundation Trusts.

Health chiefs say the new 'hub', which will cost up to £10 million, will help address 'critical challenges'.

It is hoped to bring reduced waiting times for patients for all blood tests, including cancer and specialist diagnosis under a single managed service.

The move was discussed at a meeting of Dudley Group NHS Trust.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Dudley Group NHS Trust, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Foundation Trust will plough £400,000 into the scheme.

Just over £92,000 will be stumped up by The Dudley Group by October. It is hoped the service will be up and running next year.

Bosses say the single managed service will run from one of each trust's sites.

Diane Wake, chief executive of Dudley Group, said: "Clearly for every organisation involved this is a large scale change for everyone and we cannot underestimate the impact and anxiety it gives to staff. This is about providing a service that will be strong and sustainable for the future."

"We will be also be recruiting in clinical roles that will drive it forward."

The Black Country Pathology (BCP) Transitional Management Team will be overseeing the changes.

Pathology is the study of disease and looks for abnormalities within samples of blood.

# Pervert admits child sex abuse

A 51-year-old man is facing a jail term after admitting sex offences against children. Ian Jones, of Central Drive, Lower Gornal, pleaded guilty to six offences of sex with an under age boy when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

He further admitted causing or inciting two teenagers under 18 to become involved in pornography. Jones pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a youth and attempting to engage in sexual activity by trying to kiss a 15-year-old. He was placed on the Sex Offenders Register and is on bail for reports until September 15.

Judge Peter Barrie said: "The fact I am granting you bail does not have any bearing on the sentence. It will almost certainly involve a significant custodial sentence."

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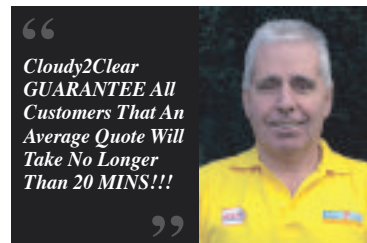
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## Bus drivers confused over red light advice

A POLICY telling bus drivers they should go through traffic lights that are broken or 'stuck on red' is leading to confusion, it has been claimed.

National Express drivers in Dudley have been told they should not sit at lights that are not working but one driver, who did not want to be named, says the order could put safety at risk. He feared he could get into trouble with police.

It comes after a National Express driver was sacked for running a red light. Abdul Jabbar, 59, of Dudley, was sacked by National Express West Midlands in October 2015 after running the light in King Street. He won an unfair dismissal claim as he felt the decision was harsh for one mistake in an otherwise unblemished career.

A notice at the Pensnett depot tells drivers: "If during your duties as a bus driver you are faced with a set of traffic lights which have failed/stuck on red, or there is a sign informing you the lights are out of order, you should treat the situation accordingly and proceed with extreme caution using good all-round observation and be prepared to stop if others assume priority."

National Express spokeswoman Ali Bell said: "We have systems in place with police and councils to check and report faulty traffic lights. Staff with concerns should immediately report them to any manager."

## Top chefs attend NEC caravan show

ANTONIO Carluccio OBE heads the celebrity chef line-up at this year's Motorhome and Caravan Show at the NEC.

He will be joining other names from the world of TV cooking and fine dining in the LIVE Theatre, demonstrating their favourite dishes and launching new products at the event, which runs from October 17 to 22.

Other guests include Caribbean cook Rustie Lee from Birmingham, Celebrity MasterChef winner Lisa Faulkner, MasterChef: The Professionals winner Steve Groves and caravan expert Graham Groves.

The Motorhome and Caravan Show is the biggest event of its kind in the UK. Visit the website [mcshow.co.uk](http://mcshow.co.uk) or call 0844 873 7333.

## Pub beer festival

A WOOLASTON pub holds its 12th annual beer festival over the August bank holiday weekend. The Plough in Bridgnorth Road will feature 10 real ales, a gin tent and live music on Sunday and Monday afternoon.

# Breakdown boss used a stolen truck

A 26-year-old running his own breakdown business with a stolen recovery truck has been given a suspended sentence.

The £10,000 Ford Transit, reported stolen on April 29 in 2015, was being driven by the brother of Daniel Millard when stopped by Staffordshire police officers on May 11, 2016, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. When examined it was found to have 'inconsistencies', said Miss Aimee Parkes, prosecuting. Failed attempts had been made to change the chassis number and police were able to match it with details of the stolen truck.

Millard, of Prestwood, Stourbridge, denied handling stolen property but was found guilty after a trial. He was given a 10-month prison sentence

suspended for 18 months, ordered to do 250 hours' unpaid work and pay £1,250 towards the cost of the case.

Millard claimed to have paid a deposit on the vehicle on March 31, 2015, a month before it had been reported stolen, and to have registered it under a personalised plate at the same time.

### Switched

It was suggested that when he collected the truck - after the theft was discovered - the vehicle he saw had been switched for the stolen one which now had the same registration number.

This was later transferred to the plate already registered by the defendant.

He maintained that he knew nothing of the 'ringing'.

Mr Richard Davenport, defending, said Millard, who had no previous convictions, was running his own 'fledgling' car recovery business. He added: "This is a car ringing case where a vehicle was disguised and attempts were made to change the chassis number but the defendant is a man of previous good character."

Judge Peter Barrie told the defendant: "You carried out a considerable amount of work on this vehicle. Attempts were made to disguise that had originally been stolen. In spite of being convicted on the plainest of evidence, you still do not accept your guilt. You were stupid to get involved."

# Call for speed limit to be cut after road death

**A CORONER has called for speed to be cut on a road where a pensioner was killed.**

Frederick Dudley, aged 90, was hit by a Volkswagen Scirocco, which failed to stop after the collision on the A449 Stourbridge Road, near Wombourne.

The widower, from Lower Penn, had got off a bus and was just over half way across the southbound carriageway holding his walking stick and shopping trolley on the 'uncontrolled' crossing when the car, estimated to be travelling up to 85mph on the 60mph route, careered into him. Mr Dudley died at the scene.

The incident happened at around 5.15pm on November 25 last year.

The driver of the VW, 27-year-old Matthew Raybould, of Buffrey Road, Dudley, was arrested at his home the next day and later admitted failing to stop. He was jailed for 18 weeks and banned from driving for 12 months.

PC Roger Wetton told an inquest at Cannock Coroners' Court the driver, who was in the off-side lane, was likely obstructed by cars ahead of him in the nearside and offside lane, and would have had 'insufficient' time to stop even if he had been travelling within the speed limit.

Coroner Margaret Jones said: "It seems sensible to write to the local authority pointing out some of the problems."

### Reduced

She later added: "I would suggest to them that at the very least the speed limit is reduced to 40mph and that they may consider an alternative controlled crossing."

Witness motorist Sarah Bishop had reduced her speed when she saw Mr Dudley walking across the road 'quite slowly', and drove past him a moment before the Scirocco hit him. She added: "I heard a loud bang and noticed the vehicle in lane two had hit the pedestrian. I looked in the mirror to see the pedestrian flying in the air like a rag doll."

The coroner concluded: "The deceased was an elderly pedestrian crossing a carriageway at an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing when he was struck by a vehicle which failed to stop."

## Cheers! Celebration after pub saved



Campaigners, including (front) Dennis Vinnicombe, celebrate saving The Fiddlers Arms at Lower Gornal

REFUSING a bid to knock down a pub and replace it with a supermarket has been hailed as a victory for people power.

The Fiddlers Arms in Lower Gornal is to stay after the plan to build a Co-op was thrown out.

Regulars gathered to raise a glass after news came through that the application had been re-

fused by Dudley Council. More than 700 people signed a petition opposing plans to bulldoze the pub. Planning experts insisted the pub was a 'heritage asset'.

Dudley MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge said: "We need to remember an important part of our local heritage are pubs. We won with the Seven Stars in

Sedgley and hopefully this is proving the point this isn't inevitable.

"With people power and work from local politicians we can stick up for our cultural heritage rather than let everything be dictated by money all the time."

Now campaigners will wait to see if the decision is appealed by owners New River Retail.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dancing grannies and strong men

THE Fizzogs comedy troupe's Dancing Grannies are among attractions at a three-day festival in the Black Country over the bank holiday weekend. Sandwell Valley Country Park hosts the summer festival, organised by Bescot Promotions from Walsall and LSD Promotions from Stourbridge. The event is from 9am until 5pm on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

On Sunday and Monday the festival will include Sandwell's Strongest Man Contest. The Dancing Grannies will also be perform at the free admission event. There is also a fun fair, a 'beach' and birds of prey on display. There are parking charges.

### Banjo hits right note for retailers

DANCER Ashley Banjo will host a retailer awards ceremony at Merry Hill next month.

The choreographer and creator of smash-hit dance troupe Diversity will host the intu Merry Hill Retailer Awards on September 2. The event and presentations take place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Banjo burst on to the dance scene in 2009 and has since been a lead judge on Sky 1's Got To Dance and Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew.

In total, more than 15 winners will be announced from over 200 stores.

### Swede sounds at tribute concert

FANS of the best known Eurovision winners will take a chance on tribute act Swede Dreamz when they take to the stage in the Black Country with their homage to ABBA on Saturday.

The group promises to take Stourbridge River Rooms on a journey through some of the Swedish supergroup's greatest hits, including Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia and Take A Chance On Me.

Tickets for the show will cost £8 and to book call (01384) 397 177 or 07986 577 661.

### Strictly duo bring dance to top venue

STRICTLY Come Dancing stars Anton du Beke and Erin Boag's new tour will visit Birmingham in the new year.

Anton & Erin comes to Symphony Hall on January 27 with tickets priced from £22.50 to £50.

The new show will also feature another six world class dancers and the 25-piece London Concert Orchestra, plus Strictly singer Lance Ellington.

For tickets see [www.tshh.co.uk](http://www.tshh.co.uk) or call 0121 780 3333.

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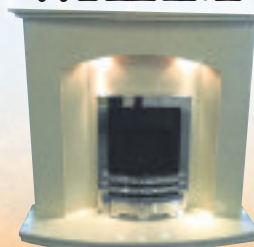


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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Never mind nuclear, we talk about burger size

IT is strange how different countries have different priorities. While Donald Trump squares up to that strange little man in North Korea, and the pair threaten each other with nuclear weapons, our own government has a very different target in its sights. Oversized beefburgers.

Public Health England is drawing up new guidelines to reduce the calories in popular foods such as burgers, crisps and sausage rolls. Manufacturers will either have to change the ingredients, or make the burgers thinner, and the crisp packets smaller. Hmm, I wonder which they will choose?

Personally, I can't see it working. After all, you may have noticed that Wispa bars in multi-packs are smaller than they used to be. I certainly have. Which is why I now eat two every lunchtime.

□ □ □

YOU might remember a few years ago, there was a big furore about how then education secretary Michael Gove was making A-levels tougher to restore their credibility. You know, less coursework, more exams, recalling and analysing facts rather than telling us how they feel. That sort of thing.

Well, Sally Collier, head of the exam regulator Ofqual, thought this was a bit harsh, and lowered the pass mark to compensate.

"I want the message to be that students have done fantastically well. All our kids are brilliant," she said.

But surely, the whole point of the exams is to find out who is brilliant at what, so they can tailor their careers accordingly.

Imagine you are an academically talented teenager, who knew the exams would be tough, and worked day and night get the best results possible. Then you discover that Neil out of The Inbetweeners has got the same grades as you, because the exam regulator says "all kids are brilliant". I think I would feel slightly nudged.

Neil probably won't be too chuffed either when he finds that all his inflated grades entitle him to is the right to spend the next few years racking up thousands of pounds of debt on a qualification worth slightly more than a roll of Andrex.

Wasn't it better for everybody when A-grades were few and far between, when only the top 20 per cent or so went to university, and they didn't have to pay for it? It also meant that instead of entering adulthood with crippling debts, the remaining 80 per cent did useful vocational courses that led to skilled, well-paid jobs.

## Highlighting hares' horrors as pair of heroes pass



Cowboy Glen – gone, but not forgotten, including of course, his famous football



Hare today, but gone tomorrow? thanks to vicious country pursuit in east England



Ty died – the death of a famous TV cowboy and film star, with an amazing real name

# Goodbye to Glen and Ty, best of the west

PANORAMA (BBC1) revealed this week that the number of arrests for drunkenness on UK flights or at British airports has soared by 50 per cent in a single year. Although I've had the occasional tittle at 30,000 feet, I have never entirely understood why airports have bars, why drunks are allowed to board planes and why airline staff, who have to deal with the consequences, are expected to sell booze. It wouldn't happen on the Number 47 bus so why does it happen on an Airbus?

NOT so long ago, any pointless action was described as "taking coals to Newcastle." I was reminded of it a few days ago sitting in the sunshine at a cafe beside Rutland Water, one of the biggest reservoirs in England and drinking bottled water, imported from Scotland.

If you're strapped for cash and your kids are still tiny and impressionable, you could probably take them to Rutland Water, which extends over 3,000 acres, for a day and convince them it was the seaside. I had a colleague whose child was four before she twigged that the "Alton Towers" her father took her to every weekend was actually a car wash.

WHY have the cops not managed to catch the jogger who infamously knocked a woman pedestrian almost into the path of a bus in London three months ago? Probably because in police terms it wasn't much of an incident: pedestrian knocked over, only slight bruises. It is only when the CCTV footage is publicised that the judgement and emotions of the Great

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



British Public take over from the police assessment and it becomes the crime of the century. The video horrifies ordinary people. The man is a brute, the woman is defenceless and did you see how close she came to that bus? A man wrongly arrested for the incident (he was in America at the time) has received death threats, so God knows what the mob will do when the real offender is nicked.

A SUDDEN rise in hare coursing in eastern England has been blamed on an early harvest leaving the fields clear. Well, that may be part of the explanation. But the real reason for killing hares with greyhounds is that some people who like to think of themselves as countryfolk are actually sadistic morons.

I CAME across a website this week identifying which of today's second-hand cars will become "a future classic." The snag, as all motorists know from bitter experience, is the ruinous cost of keeping a banger long enough for it to become a collector's item. Future classic = present money-pit.

I WRITE from family experience. In 1971 my father parted with a troublesome Aston Martin for £1,400 and was glad to get that much.

A similar model was auctioned last month for £495,000.

AFTER this week's item on the late Glen Campbell, a reader tells me of a friend who thought the Wichita Lineman was a song about a football match.

A MOGGIE called Ash appeared in a national newspaper as a cheerleader for the latest fad, walking your cat. Ash, wearing a lead, was taken on a three-day hiking trip to Snowdonia and was pictured sitting on a Welsh hillock, allegedly enjoying himself. But he didn't look happy. His eyes and body-language seemed to say: "Please take me home."

CATS are not natural tourists. They love their own little territory. And while some, including our old tabby, enjoy walking with humans, they do it on their own terms and reserve the right to vanish into the hedgerow or dash home. The moment you put a lead on a cat, you try to turn it into something it isn't. And while some good-natured cats will put up with it, others will invoke the cat's ultimate four-footed revenge, and walk out on you.

IT was a bad enough shock to hear that our 1950s cowboy hero Ty Hardin has just died aged 87. But the greater shock was to discover his real name. The man we remember as rootin' tootin' Bronco Layne was Orison Whipple Hungerford Jr.

## TALKING POINT



# Gearing up for a greener transport

WE live in a world which is being defiled by humankind.

The population explosion over the past decades has seen the Earth set inexorably on course for ecological devastation.

Roads heave with chugging, dirty-fuelled 4x4s and older cars which now go on forever, but which cannot claim to be pollutant-free.

Like drones we line up at the traffic lights, inches away from the car in front as a driver of usually a German car (more often than not!) tries to push in from the right – what kind of existence is this? Surely, there is another way.

The argument for electric cars rattles on, but this is simply rearranging the chairs on the Titanic, as the majority of power stations linked to the National Grid are generated by fossil fuels – so that means it's damaging the atmosphere.

But wait, there may be a Lycra-clad answer to all our problems – those magnificent men and women on their pedalling machines.

Bikes are all about these days, with Britain's ongoing successes in the Olympics and alike. A few years ago a survey was carried out which put the UK in 10th place as the most bike-friendly nation in Europe, with Denmark and Holland sharing top spot. This does not translate itself to the roads however, when at times it can feel more like a war of attrition, sharing lanes with motorised traffic.

I don't seek to defend idiots who think they own the road, two abreast or more. Cyclists should know their position in the pecking order, and it is the ones who think they can jump lights, weave in and out of traffic at speed and not consider pedestrians, who will always give the rest of us who just want to get to work, or ride for the fun of it, a bad name.

On the horizon there are self-charging electric bikes being developed, which will mean we don't all have to be Bradley Wiggins to get around, and even with the technology of electric bikes available now, they are the most environmentally-friendly personal transport available on the roads.

In the meantime however, the message to all road users should be that bikes are here to stay and the police now focus more than ever before on inconsiderate drivers who pose real dangers to cyclists with their thoughtless actions. Nearly 19,000 incidents in 2015 resulted in injury to cyclists on UK roads, with 100 killed.

One last message to anyone on the saddle though – make sure you've got a blooming bell!

GRAEME ANDREW

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# Caring for environment is rubbish

JUDGING by the recent actions from Dudley Council it is evident that the environmental policy for the borough is shambolic.

Remove all local recycling skips in conjunction with a proposal to centralise current regional sites at some inaccessible location in Brierley Hill. There has been no consideration to public need or wishes or indeed the probable cost associated with the increase of fly-tipping.

Evidently the local re-cycling skips are getting too full too often and the council can't cope. They want to discourage such a

practice and reckon that by removing these local sites it will deliver £45,000 of savings. This relative slim cost-saving measure is coming from the same council who last year co-funded a Ferris wheel structure in Dudley. You really couldn't make it up.

So when your child comes home from school talking about the virtues of looking after the environment, tell them that according to Dudley Council leaders it is all just a load of rubbish.

**PHILIP O'DWYER**  
Hayley Green

# Boost trade with rent cut

AS a resident in the borough of Dudley, I have been concerned about the working of our local council for years. Now I wonder if they have finally lost it.

As one walks around the town, there are lots of charity shops, cafes, coffee shops, etc. There are also lots of 'job shops', including a new one in King Street. And the brainy boys are now talking about resurrecting some shops in Wolverhampton Street that have been empty for 25 years - as a job centre.

Why don't they drop the rents on properties so that genuine traders can set up businesses? Surely a rent of £100 per week on premises that are being used is better than £500 on empty buildings!

**PETER COLE**  
Kingswinford

# Double trouble in name game

CONFUSED by the spreading use of double-barrelled names, which I always associated with the upper classes, I decided to look up the reason on Wikipedia.

It says 'A double surname is taken on marriage in order to preserve a family name which would become extinct due to the absence of male descendants bearing the name connected to the inheritance of a family estate'.

I am still confused as to why there seem to be so many appearing now.

**RON GWILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

# Proud of my roots in Staffs

IT appears to me that over the years the Black Country has got bigger and bigger.

When I was growing up in Smethwick in the 1940s and 1950s, I lived in Staffordshire, so did all the people who lived in Walsall, West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Wolverhampton, even those who lived in Brierley Hill.

Oldbury, Dudley, and Stourbridge were in Worcestershire. The Black Country was a small area between Tipton (Staffordshire) and Wolverhampton, at least it was as far as us Smethwickians were concerned.

Now all people who live in the aforementioned towns live in the Black Country. How can that be?

I should also mention that Birmingham was in Warwickshire. I am proud of my roots (Smethwick), but do not consider them to be Black Country.

**MR R W MILLS**  
Kingswinford

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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# No surprise some folk go fly-tipping

I contacted Dudley Council to arrange the disposal of two single bed mattresses. I am a 61-year-old man fighting cancer, so moving these myself would be a problem to say the least.

I was told it would cost me £60. That's £30 each. I was amazed. When I lived under Sandwell Council they offered one free collection a year for people aged 60 and over and charged just over

£20 for up to four items. You see so much evidence of fly-tipping, which is deplorable, but if the council charge such high prices it's not surprising. I had to cut my mattresses up and take them to the tip.

I understand the importance of making a charge for services but wonder who thinks these are fair.

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# Retail park will offer more places for eating

A NEW coffee shop and a restaurant will be coming to a major Black Country shopping centre in the latest stage of its regeneration.

A Starbucks branch will open on the upper level of Merry Hill, transforming part of a car park, while a restaurant will be another new addition.

It follows an announcement from Merry Hill owners

Intu that £100 million of improvements will be made at the shopping centre over the next few years, including a new cinema and a string of restaurants.

Developers say the two A3-units will 'complement' the existing retail offer at Merry Hill Retail Park.

## Challenge

They will be situated towards the top of the embankment near to The Boulevard and the rear of the existing car parking spaces. Pedestrian access will be via the existing car park.

An outdoor seating area is to be created along with 12 car parking spaces for Starbucks and 11 spaces for the restaurant.

Plans were approved by

By Clare Butler

the council on August 11.

Planning documents state: "The main challenge associated with these proposals was to site each building successfully with respect to the retail park as a whole, bearing in mind their proximity to the adjacent grassed banks and minimising the loss of car parking and impact on existing planting."

"Overall these proposals represent a high quality development."

Owner Intu recently bought the building that houses the existing Odeon cinema at Merry Hill and is now in talks with the chain to move it into a new building that would be constructed at the rear of the centre.

## Sir Lenny helps clear the way for students



Sir Lenny Henry lends a hand on the clearing hotline to help find students university places

SIR Lenny Henry stepped in to help operate the clearing hotline and offer university places directly to students who face making quick changes to their education plans.

The Birmingham City University Chancellor was operating the phones at its city centre campus on A-level results day last week. Those calling into the hotline were greeted with the recognisable voice of Dudley-born Sir Lenny, who was on hand to advise students on course spaces, availability, entry requirements and even offer places. Thousands of calls were expected to be dealt with by the team.

Sir Lenny said: "Starting higher education had a transformative impact on me and for many students clearing will be the first steps they take on that journey. Securing a place at university was a proud moment and eventually led me to become chancellor here, that is why I'll take so much pleasure from being able to offer others the same opportunity."



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# Firm seals £30m deal for self-driving cars

## US snake found on Edge



Dale Preece-Kelly from Critterish Allsorts with the Western Hognose snake

A SNAKE usually found in Arizona and Mexico was discovered on Kinver Edge.

The Western Hognose was spotted on a path at the beauty spot by Dale Preece-Kelly, owner of Kidderminster's Critterish Allsorts. He has named the two-foot long reptile Edge. The snake, which has a bite

as painful as a bee sting, to his collection of 13 snakes at his pet therapy company.

Mr Preece-Kelly said: "I was walking across Kinver Edge when a pair warned me of a snake they had seen nearby. I think it had been wild for a while, given the good condition it was in."

SPORTSCAR company Westfield has sealed a deal worth up to £30 million to export self-driving vehicles to South Korea.

In one of the first commercial orders signed for the export of the vehicles anywhere in the world, Dudley firm Westfield will supply the pods to North Gyeongsang, a South Korean regional government.

The groundbreaking deal comes after International Trade Minister and Kidderminster MP Mark Garnier signed an agreement to pave the way for the project to supply South Korea with 'autonomous electric pods' using UK expertise.

During a visit to South Korea last week to strengthen trade and investment ties, the Minister signed a UK-Korea deal on 'joint automotive collaboration' for the UK to provide the driverless vehicles.

Mr Garnier said: "The Midlands Engine is in full gear as we lead the way in manufacturing expertise and show the world that Britain is open for business."

"Demand for our goods and services is clearly out there and we will continue to support businesses in making the most of global markets as we leave the EU."

### Testing

The UK already has a strong automotive trading link with South Korea and the number of cars exported to the country has increased five-fold, making it the UK's eighth largest export market outside of Europe – up from 16th in 2009.

South Korea has ordered five autonomous electric pods for initial testing. The project could provide millions of pounds worth of business for UK companies including Westfield Sports Cars, which is based on the Pensnett Estate in Kingswinford.

Westfield chief executive officer Julian Turner said: "We are really excited to be working with the UK SMART City Team."

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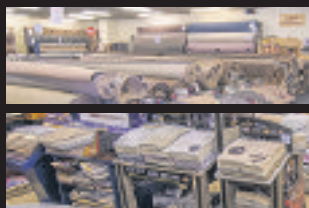


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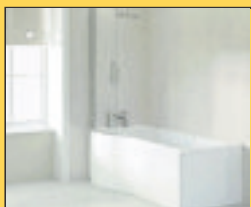


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## Youngster dices with death at crossing



**Video of the dangerous prank in which the youngster had to dive under a barrier to avoid a train**

THIS is the terrifying moment a youngster sprinted across a level crossing near Hagley as its barriers come down, in a prank described as 'shocking' by transport bosses.

Network Rail released the video from Blakedown level crossing, at the village between Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

It shows the youth running across as the barriers come down, rolling under the final barrier to get out of the way of an oncoming train. The shocking video has been released just days after a new safety campaign was launched to warn about the dangers.

Over the past 10 years almost 170 young people have lost their lives after trespassing on the railway. Nearly half of them were under the age of 25. Allan Spence, head of public and passenger safety for Network Rail, said: "We must make young people aware that if they go on the railway they are dangerous grounds."

# More out of work in the West Midlands

**EMPLOYMENT** has reached an all-time high in the UK but the number of jobless people in the West Midlands has risen.

The Office for National Statistics said the number of people in work nationally rose by 125,000 to 32.07 million in the three months to June, with the employment rate climbing by 0.3 per cent to a record 75.1 per cent.

But the West Midlands saw the number of unemployed rise by 3,000 to 164,000 – 5.8 per cent of the working population. The number of people in work in the region was 2.67m, a rate of 72.3 per cent.

The jobs market remained a bright spot for the economy, with the unemployment rate dropping by 0.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, the so-called claimant count fell nationally by 4,200 in July to 807,800.

The number claiming in the West Midlands was down 970 to 85,505 – 2.4 per cent.

The biggest drop of 160 was in Sandwell to 7,055 – 3.5 per cent.

There were 105 fewer

**By John Corser**

claimants in Walsall at 4,890 – 2.9 per cent, Dudley was down 70 at 5,735 – three per cent, and Wolverhampton dropped by 65 to 6,705 – 4.2 per cent. South Staffordshire reduced by five to 785 – 1.2 per cent.

Annual growth in wages was 2.1 per cent for April to June, up from a revised figure of 1.9 per cent for March to May. Once bonuses are stripped out, pay expanded by 2.1 per cent over the period, rising from two per cent.

But once inflation is taken into account, total pay in real terms sank by 0.5 per cent both including and excluding bonuses. It comes as the cost of living held steady at 2.6 per cent in July.



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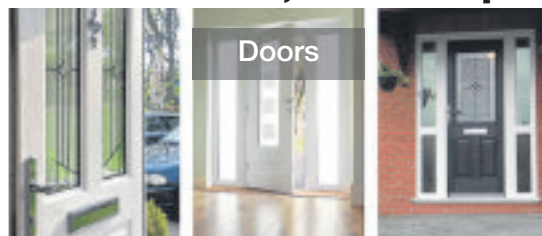
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Sedgley Councillor Michael Evans in Gospel End Street

# Safety work expected to get under way at 'danger spot'

WORK to improve safety along a road dubbed a 'renowned danger spot' will begin later this year.

Plans are in the pipeline to reconstruct Gospel End Street in Sedgley to highlight give-way signs and markings.

Numerous crashes have taken place along the road in recent years. In February last year two boys and a man were taken to Russells Hall hospital following a two-car crash at Gospel End Street.

By Jamie Brassington

Sedgley councillor Michael Evans has campaigned to get road safety measures in place and has previously called the road a 'renowned danger spot'.

He expects work to begin in December. He said: "I have been assured that restructuring the road will be carried out in this financial year. I think it will be welcome news as it is a dangerous junction."

The idea of restructuring the road will be to make it safer for motorists to travel along and reduce the risk of accidents. Planners also believe it will help drivers to pick out road signs.

The project faced delays because Dudley Council had to go to the private sector for the designs to be drawn up. Councillor Evans added: "The plans will also have to go through two safety committees, which is the normal process."

# Fundraising night of comedy and music

A FUNDRAISING evening of music, comedy and magic is to take place in Dudley this autumn.

The event has been organised in aid of Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell (BUDS).

The Duchess and the Dukes band will provide musical entertainment and there will be comedy from David St John and magic from award-winning magician Ron Popple.

The evening will also include a hot/cold buffet, complimentary glass of wine and a raffle with quality prizes.

The event take place on Thursday, October 5, from 7 to 10pm at The Village Hotel, in Castlegate Drive.

Cost per ticket is £35. For a table of 10 booked together the price will be £32 per ticket.

To book, call 0121 565 3721 or email info@buds.co.uk and tickets must be paid for upon booking.

# Council bid to claw back £15 million in savings

Report by Clare Butler

**AROUND £15 million a year will be saved by council chiefs in Dudley as they improve the way they buy goods and services from the private sector, it has been announced.**

Millions of pounds are spent each year on building materials, maintenance contracts, construction sub-contractors and social care packages by the authority.

It is hoped the initiative will help to make around £4m in savings that have been targeted from the council's general fund and millions more from the separate housing and school budgets.



Patrick Harley

Bosses say work on transforming procurement processes – the buying of services from outside the council – will also help achieve five per cent savings.

Leader Patrick Harley said it would be an 'exciting move' for the borough. He said: "The council spends millions of pound each year on building materials, maintenance contracts, construction sub-contractors, social care packages and much more."

"By getting our house in order and improving our staffing structure and processes on procurement we can generate significant savings to ensure we have a sustainable budget moving forward. This is a very exciting move to ensure Dudley borough residents are getting value for money from their council when we are buying in goods and services from the private sector."

## Agreement

It comes as an agreement was made at a Full Council meeting in March.

The original proposal was for an external commercial company to be appointed to drive out savings but now the changes will be made in-house instead.

An Invest to Save Budget of £200,000 will allow external interim support to be brought in – with an interim head of procurement taken on for a short period.

Councillor Steve Clark, cabinet member for finance, added: "The first thing we must do is ensure our own processes are in place so we will take on a procurement expert who will have experience in the commercial and local government sectors."

"This immediate action will ensure we have systems fit for purpose so that best value is guaranteed when we are taking on new contracts or renewing contracts."

The council's UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said he welcomed the move, after his group had campaigned for tighter procurement savings.

# Just the business as charity cash pledged

DUDLEY'S Mayor has been buoyed by online donations of £1,500 to his nominated charities.

Councillor Dave Tyler visited Castle & Crystal Credit Union as part of his 100 business pledge.

He said: "I was delighted to be greeted with the news that my charity online fundraising facility, supported by Castle & Crystal has already reached the £1,500 mark."

The visit to the credit union was part of the mayor's commitment to celebrate the achievements of local businesses and to promote the support that is available from the council to all businesses, whether large or small, starting up or expanding.

Any business wishing to be included in the 100 business pledge, can get in touch through mayorofdudley.org.uk

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## Meeting to focus on museums

THE Black Country Living Museum is hosting a major museums conference this week.

Staff from open-air museums across Europe will descend on the venue for the conference.

Visitors will also be delivering sessions around the theme with this year's keynote speaker – archaeologist and a museum director Dr Patrick Greene OBE – starting the conference with his thoughts on what lies ahead for open-air museums.

BCLM director and chief executive Andrew Lovett was due to provide introductory remarks which will be streamed on YouTube.

The venue is holding the 28th Association of European Open-Air Museums Conference until tomorrow (Friday).

## Help needed with garden

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help a project to create a garden for the Afro-Caribbean Elders Group in Dudley. It will involve building a greenhouse and planting vegetables, fruit trees and herbs.

There will also be a memorial space for lost loved ones as part of the project.

o get involved call Anita Chumber at Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust on 07917 559351.

## FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

# Investment drive as group aiming to boost business

**BUSINESS and investment in Dudley has been given a huge boost with the unveiling of a new group aimed at driving regeneration across the borough.**

Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley is spearheading the initiative which is aimed at encouraging growth.

The group will act as ambassadors for the borough and identify opportunities, as well as constraints for businesses and feed them back to the council and partners.

They will also work with the council to promote the borough to key investors, developers and visitors.

Councillor Harley said: "One of my key priorities as leader of the council is to ensure that we do everything within our powers and resources to facilitate economic growth.

### Positives

To achieve this we need to work more closely with partners and stakeholders across the borough, the wider Black Country and the emerging West Midlands Combined Authority.

"There is a lot to be positive about in Dudley. But we also need to identify and deal with any areas which are unhelpful for businesses

By Clare Butler

which want to invest. The voice of business is critical to my aim. We must listen to our existing businesses and with partners do what we can to ensure that the conditions and support are in place to encourage business growth and attract new investment."

The council has also been working with West Midlands Mayor Andy Street to submit a business case for the Midland Metro extension from Brierley Hill. The new DY5 enterprise zone has officially opened for business. There are also plans for a rail innovation centre at Castle Hill, alongside college developments in the town and improvements at tourist sites including Dudley Zoo and Black Country Living Museum.



Robin Woja, Paul Gough and Warren Davies, Station Commander at Bilston and Tettenhall

## Boxers to fight fire with fire

THEY are more used to fighting fires but brigade members will be fighting in the boxing ring instead – all in the name of charity.

Firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service have teamed up with a boxing gym ahead of a 12-hour spar-athon.

Many punches will be thrown at the Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley during the mammoth session, from 7am to 7pm on Saturday.

Amateur boxers, coaches and the public will be getting involved on the day raising money for the gym's own charity for young boxers. The fire service uses the gym for training and crew members were keen to get involved.

Club chairman Paul Gough said: "Anyone can turn up and put the gloves on."

## Music and mirth at two shows

PEOPLE can enjoy Black Country music and mirth during two upcoming events.

Performers Billy Spake Mon and Bren Hawthorne are behind The Boonyeds World Tour.

The first event, in support of charity Action Heart Dudley, takes place on Saturday at the Cosy Cafe, in the Churchill Precinct, in Dudley town centre, between 10.30am and 3pm.

Guests will be arriving all day to play a wide range of music hosted by the duo.

The second event, called Two Blokes Two Chairs an' a Bloke Named John, is being held on September 30 at the Pump House, in Engine Street, Langley. Admission is £5. Email b.dakin@aston.ac.uk or text 07514 824845 with name and number of tickets and collect on the night.

## Lion day was main draw

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo helped to raise more than £660 on World Lion Day.

The attraction devoted a day towards raising awareness of the threats Asiatic lions face, with less than 300 surviving in the wild.

Keepers manned an information stand throughout the day.

A raffle for a 12-month adoption of one of the zoo's three lions was won by 11 year-old Madison Warren, from West Bromwich.

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## You are invited to join us to celebrate Older Peoples Day 2017 Combatting Loneliness and Isolation

This free event is for individual older people and representatives of organisations across all sectors working with or for older people in Dudley.

**Brierley Hill Methodist Church, Bank Street**

There will be a range of activities during the day including a reminiscence session, craft session, relaxation session and seated exercise – join us for all or part of the day.

Information from various organisations will be available on marketplace stalls. Refreshments and a buffet lunch will be provided but booking is essential.

If you would like to book a place, or book lunch, please call Fynelle Wishart at Age UK, Dudley on 01384 354508 or email

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# £14,000 grant enables elderly to get online

A GRANT of more than £14,000 will be used to help elderly residents surf the net. The sum of £14,350 has been awarded by national grant-giving charity Longleigh Foundation.

It will fund social housing provider Stonewater's country-wide programme of digital taster days aimed at helping its retirement living residents get online and maximise the benefits of the internet.

The programme, launched last month at Stonewater's Chaddesley Court retirement living scheme in Dudley, is being rolled-out across the country over the next two years providing more than 2,000 Stonewater retirement living residents with basic skills training.

The digital sessions are focused on showing residents how to access the internet through laptops, tablets, smart phones and other electronic devices. It gives tuition in using services from online banking, shopping and healthcare resources, to connecting with friends and family

through email, Skype and Facebook. The sessions also include playing online games like chess and sudoku, which provide mental stimulation, and training on setting up email, texting and downloading apps.

"Digital skills are critical for life in the 21st century and with government services increasingly being 'digital by default' it is now vital that older people and their carers have basic skills so they can access these critical services," said Sue Terry, Longleigh Foundation chairman.

Sue Shirt, Stonewater's executive director for housing, said: "We're very grateful to Longleigh Foundation for funding these vital workshops which will reduce the level of digital exclusion among our older residents, many of whom have never used a computer and are quite fearful of going online."

"This project provides an opportunity in a relaxed environment, to get comfortable with using digital devices."



Mary Harper and Malcolm Newey with Fran Davies, Stonewater Retirement Living team leader

# Watchdog says the safety of children was 'compromised'

CHILDREN at a Dudley nursery are 'not adequately supervised', according to education watchdog Ofsted.

Concerns have been raised about the safety of children at Happy Hours Day Nursery in Lower Gornal.

The nursery, which is attended by 71 children aged up to eight, has been rated 'inadequate' as inspectors were alarmed by safeguarding practices.

During an inspection, one child was left with a student who had not undergone DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, which ensure people are safe to work with children. The watchdog said 'children's welfare is significantly compromised'.

Nursery bosses said they had followed Early Years guidance and that they had taken action to address Ofsted's concerns.

Its report said: "Arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. On the day of the inspection, a student whose suitability had not been checked through a Disclosure and Barring Service check, was left unsupervised with children while they were in the bathroom."

The nursery, on Longfellow Road, had previously been rated 'good'. Nursery deputy manager Hayley Mason said: "Everything has been acted on since. All issues raised have been changed."

# Service by candlelight in memory of Natalie

THE family of long-lost mother Natalie Putt are hoping for closure as they hold a candle-lit service at church to celebrate her life.

Natalie was 17 and had not long given birth to her son, Rhys, when she went missing from Upper Gornal 14 years ago.

Police recently opened a murder investigation after 'credible' new information came to light. While the murder inquiry continues, her half-sister Rebecca Coggins, 40, spoke about a candlelit memorial which is being held for her on Saturday, September 9 at St Peter's Church, Machynlleth from 2pm.

"It is a chance to properly say goodbye, for everyone to get together and share anecdotes of Natalie," she said.

## Voices

"It's for the family to share memories of Natalie, to share. It will be candle-lit. It's for all of us to get together, in God's house."

"It's our way of raising our voices and saying 'we miss you and we love you'," she added. "It's all about celebrating Natalie's life."

"The church was where our mother, Jennifer Boyle, had her funeral service and me and Natalie used to go there as kids. It just seems fitting, I'm sure that's where she wanted to get married."

Rebecca insists 'anyone is welcome' to the service, but they must wear colourful clothing - no black.

"We have got quite a few of the family going, and an-

By Heather Large

yone is welcome to go," she added. "We have put red, white and yellow flowers down on her mother's grave, so around that theme. There will be no black."

"We want it to be colourful as she was such a vivacious person."

Police recently exhumed graves at Ruiton Cemetery but the search yielded no clues. Officers also received a call providing a name of a person described as being 'responsible' for Natalie's apparent death. Rebecca added: "It is a get-together for everybody to remember the fond times."

"We want to say 'wherever you are, we hope you are safe'. It's just to have a bit of Natalie back, in the church - time to reflect. The police are now adamant this is a murder enquiry, so we will have to go with that."

"Somebody has the missing piece. It's a nightmare - someone knows something."

Anyone with information can call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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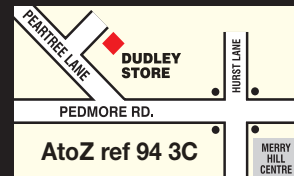
# Fit group fundraiser

A KEEP fit group from Wordsley Community Centre has raised vital funds for charity. The group, run by Jean Hughes BEM, met Dudley South MP Mike Rood to present a £200 cheque for the UK Sepsis Trust.

Mr Wood, a survivor of Sepsis, said: "The wonderful work that Jean and her keep fit groups do to raise money for charities is really inspiring. This cheque for £200 will make a real difference to someone's life."

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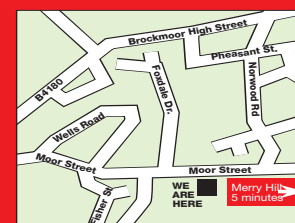
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## Boss of police group calling for pay rise

WE need a pay rise – that is message from the boss of the body that represents the West Midlands' rank and file police officers.

Tom Cuddeford, chairman of West Midlands Police Federation, said it was time for Government to show 'support and respect' for front line officers and backed calls for a 2.8 per cent pay increase.

Writing in 'Federation', the group's magazine, Mr Cuddeford criticised delays in making a decision on this year's police pay review.

He wrote: "We appreciate that in reality there is no magic money tree, but there are also no magic police officers who can keep making ends meet despite the increased cost of living and their decreased real term wages."

"Police officers seem to be expected to perform all sorts of tricks as they try to provide the same service with fewer resources but maybe it's time the Government conjured up some solutions too?"

### Struggling

He said the Police Federation of England and Wales was calling for a 2.8 per cent pay rise to the Police Remuneration Review Board. A decision on the pay review was meant to be taken before the summer but has now been delayed until next month at the earliest.

Mr Cuddeford added: "This is just not acceptable and will cause months of uncertainty for officers at a time when they are already run ragged at work and, in some cases, struggling financially."

"While any pay increase will be backdated to September 1, the date of our annual pay rise – if we get one – it could be months before we actually see any increase in our pay."

## Kristian raises baton for city's games bid



Kristian Thomas holds the baton at the Bullring

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas proudly held the Queen's Baton aloft as the countdown to the Commonwealth Games reached the West Midlands.

Officials in Birmingham are hoping the baton will be passed onto the city, which is bidding to host the games after Australia in 2022.

The baton – the equivalent of the Olympic Torch – was in Birmingham to mark its bid to be in next in line for the prestigious competition.

Wolverhampton Olympian Kristian, an Olympic bronze medalist and Commonwealth champion, who trains in Halesowen, posed in front of the Bullring shopping centre with the baton.

## Jog along to hand in Race for Life cash

THOUSANDS of women joined the fight against cancer by taking part in Cancer Research UK's Race for Life.

More than 6,500 mothers, daughters, sisters and friends have come together to show their commitment to the cause at Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Coton Park.

Now organisers of the 5k, 10k, and Pretty Muddy events are sending a heart-felt message of thanks to all participants and their supporters who, it is hoped, will raise more than £500,000 in total.

And they're asking them to make every step count by paying in their sponsorship money as soon as possible so it can be used to fund life-saving research. Go to [raceforlife.org](http://raceforlife.org) for more information.

# Dudley is worst borough in region for shoplifting

**SHOPS are more risk of thefts depending where they are situated in the Black Country, with Dudley the worst for shoplifting, according to new figures.**

Fifty cases of shoplifting in the Dudley borough were reported to police in May, more than double the figure for

Walsall. In Sandwell there were 39 and in Wolverhampton 33 such incidents during the same period.

In Walsall the figure was 24 and in Solihull there were just 18.

The figures, obtained after a Freedom of Information Act request to West Midlands Police force, did not surprise traders in Dudley.

Mohammed Sagir, chairman of the Voice of Dudley Businesses, said: "It

is a subject which is raised increasingly by members. There are CCTV cameras all around Dudley, but too often we report crimes, get a reference number and do not hear anything more. We want confidence that these people doing it are getting caught."

West Midlands Police charged 561 in connection with shoplifting offences over the same month and 66 others received a caution.

## Chance to have say as forums launched

RESIDENTS are invited to raise concerns and ideas at community forums to be held in Dudley next month.

The meetings, from September 4 to October 2, are a chance to meet local councillors and police officers to discuss and work on issues in the community.

The Dudley Council-run meetings also offer community groups the chance to bid for grants of up to £5,000 for projects or activities which benefit local people.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "Making decisions that are right for local people and the borough as a whole is key and that's why it's more important than ever before for people to come along and talk to us about any ideas or issues they have. Our doors are open."

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# 20 Free hour car park trial to be introduced

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, August 24, 2017

MOTORISTS will be able to park for free on all council-owned car parks in Dudley borough for an hour, chiefs have announced.

However, drivers had been parking for free for two hours on council car parks in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Sedgley since the launch of a pilot in April.

Now council bosses are looking to make changes to the trial so one hour of free parking is offered on all their car parks from October 1, including those in Stourbridge and Kingswinford. The two-hour trial will end on September 30.

Council bosses will roll out a one-hour trial across the whole borough with the intention of bringing it in permanently.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We have listened to local people and anecdotally they have told us the towns are busier than ever. This is great news for business and something that we want to build on, so we are now working up the finances to ensure we can make free parking a permanent offer."

"We are now going to adapt the trial to one hour and include all borough car parks so we can analyse this impact before introducing the best option for the borough."

People who want to take advantage of the one-hour trial will need to print and display a free parking ticket from the machines already in place.

## Flames spread across farm land

FLAMES shot into the night sky as fire swept across farm land close to Kingswinford. The fire took hold in a harvested corn field off the A449 Kidderminster Road last Wednesday night. Firefighters were quickly able to bring the blaze near to the junction with Lodge Lane under control.



Dudley College students jump for joy after their nervous wait



Principal David Williams with students at Halesowen College



Dudley College Principal Lowell Williams



Students receive their results at Old Swinford Hospital in Stourbridge



Delighted students at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath

# Class act! Delight at A-levels

Students across Dudley celebrated after getting top grades on A-level results day.

The waiting was finally over for anxious teenagers as they got their hands on their results last Thursday.

Dudley Sixth College students have again excelled with an overall pass rate of 98 per cent showing a consistent picture after last year's result with a high percentage of them achieving higher grades.

Dudley Sixth students began their

celebrations at midnight when their places at University were confirmed under the new UCAS system but then had a sleepless night until they could collect their individual grades at 8am with more than 200 students receiving individual grades at the Dudley site.

A total of 33 of the 37 subjects on offer at Dudley College of Technology achieved a 100 per cent pass rate including Mathematics, Physics, English Language and Literature, Law,

Psychology and Economics.

Dudley College Principal Lowell Williams said: "It always makes me proud when I see Dudley students achieving so much - I see this is the pinnacle of an outstanding year for the college, our learners and the town."

At Ellowes Hall Sports College in Dudley, 40 per cent of entries achieved an A\* or A or equivalent with over 75 per cent of entries at grade C or above.

The school also recorded a 97 per cent pass rate which included 13 subjects with a 100 per cent pass rate. Star pupils included Eleanor Taylor with three A\*s.

Year 13s at Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley achieved a 100 per cent pass rate in 19 subjects. There was a 100 per cent pass rate in 32 subjects at Halesowen College.

At Windsor Sixth Form in Halesowen, 45 per cent of all grades were at A\* to B. Fifteen students achieved

the equivalent of at least three A\* or A grades.

All students at Old Swinford Hospital in Stourbridge passed their exams across 24 subjects.

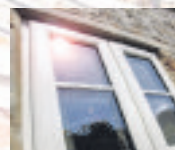
Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath capped off the academic year with 84 per cent of the cohort achieving three or more passes at A\*-E as 55 per cent earned three or more A-level passes at A\* to C and 28 per cent achieved A\* to B grades.

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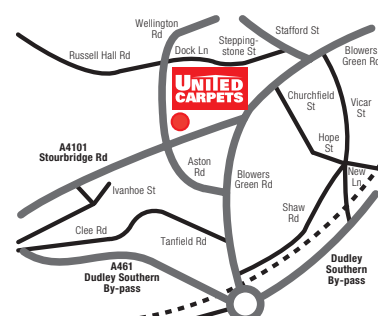
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# Have say on future of pitches and parks

PEOPLE have been urged to let council chiefs know which green spaces are important to them as authorities plan for the region's future.

Residents in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton have until September 8 to have their say on how the Black Country Core Strategy should be updated.

They are being asked to think about which green and environmental spaces matter most, this could be anything from cycle paths to sport pitches or parks, open spaces or areas for wildlife.

Chiefs said the feedback will be used to update the strategy – a planning document which will map out development across the four authorities from now until 2036. This includes where homes should be built and where jobs should be provided.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "With only a few weeks to go until the consultation comes to an end, I would urge everyone to take a few minutes out of their day to have their say on the big issues."

"The document will not only shape how we continue to protect and improve the local environment but will also set out plans on how

**By David Cosgrove**

people will get around and how we manage increasing demands for growth in housing and the economy."

The strategy outlines how many homes need to be built and how to plan for the number of extra jobs needed for a growing population. It also decides where new homes and businesses should be located. The document also says there is a need to find the equivalent of more than 300 rugby pitches of new land for industries and businesses in order to create jobs.

Find out more and take part at blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk or pick up a leaflet from a local library. Alternatively, call (01384) 814136.

## Tour and new album for rock legend Plant



Robert Plant has two concerts on home turf in the West Midlands to mark the release of new album Carry Fire

ROCK legend Robert Plant will be in concert at venues in Wolverhampton and Birmingham in November and December.

The West Bromwich-born former Led Zeppelin star, now 68, will play the Wolverhampton Civic Hall and the Birmingham Symphony Hall alongside his band The Sensational Space Shifters.

The tour will come hot on the heels of the rocker's new album Carry Fire, which is being released on October 13.

He will be supported at the shows by folk music star Seth Lakeman, who also features on the new album.

Tickets for the Wolverhampton show on November 20 and the Birmingham show on December 12 both go on sale tomorrow (Friday). For further information go to the website wolvescivic.co.uk or call the box office on 0870 3207000 and for Symphony Hall see thsh.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 780 3333.

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# Students' healthy way to help in community

SANDWELL College has been shortlisted for two national awards as it further cements its key role within the community.

A striking mural created by students is in the running for a 2017 Community Rail Award.

The arts students' Smethwick Going Forward 'Love Thy Neighbour' mural at Rolfe Street Station is in the Community Art Schemes Permanent Projects award category, while the station regeneration project, also worked on by college construction students, has been shortlisted for the Involving Diverse Groups award.

The college has links with London Midland, Network Rail and Transport for West Midlands.

## Holistic

Meanwhile, continuing the work within the community, beauty therapy and healthcare students have been working with the Kissing It Better charity at Sandwell and City Hospitals.

They have provided holistic treatments and manicures to assist patients in their recovery from strokes and other serious illnesses. As part of the Sapphire Project, organised by ACRC and Age Concern, healthcare students have visited patients on wards and participated in voluntary placements to enrich their studies.

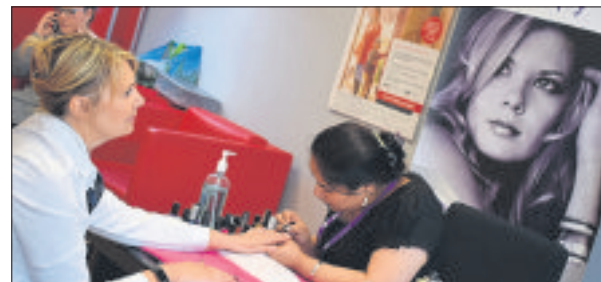
Carole Richardson of Kissing It Better said: "They all did amazingly well."

In addition beauty students have provided complimentary treatments at a community event held at Santander in West Bromwich High Street.

The bank branch invited the college to get involved alongside Barnardos on Track, Hope for Justice – highlighting



Students involved with the Kissing It Better charity at Sandwell and City Hospitals



A community event held at Santander based in West Bromwich High Street

modern day slavery, and TNCMC – raising awareness of the contribution of the Caribbean armed forces to the Commonwealth over the past century.

And Sandwell College recently held a community fun day to welcome local people to its Central Campus.

The summer fair was packed with a host of activities, including street theatre and music performances, a camper

van selfie booth and fairground rides for all the family. Principal Graham Pennington said: "This is our opportunity to give something back to the community and encourage people to further their career aspirations with information on course applications."

Enrolment for all courses starts on GCSE results day, August 24, and continues through to September.

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# Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

## Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

**"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"**

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

**"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"**

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

## Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

**"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."**

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

**"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."**



Paul King, Head of April King Legal

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

## Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

**"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."**

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

**"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."**

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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**April King has prepared a free information pack for readers of the Dudley Chronicle which is available by calling**

**01384 886101**

Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm

You can also email [info@aprilking.co.uk](mailto:info@aprilking.co.uk) or visit [www.aprilking.co.uk/infopack](http://www.aprilking.co.uk/infopack)



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[www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk](http://www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk)

# Deborah's Led a life less ordinary

She hails from one of the greatest rock families of them all. Rock'n'blues singer Deborah Bonham grew up as her big brother, John, was becoming the greatest drummer in music history. The Led Zeppelin powerhouse was fast, powerful and had his own distinctive groove. Though he died at the tragically young age of 32, he left a legacy that lasts to this day.

Deborah was eight or nine when Led Zeppelin started to take off. And she imagined that his 'job' – of touring the world, recording number one hit records and having fans fall at your feet – was perfectly normal. As you would, at the age of nine.

"Where John's talent came from, nobody can say. I think it's something you are born with. From the age of two or three, he was bashing pots and pans. When it took off for them, I was so young. I grew up with it. I grew up in the thick of it. I just thought that was a normal way of life. I thought you made an album and it went straight to number one.

"Believe me, I later learnt that was not always the case. But I was very young when he joined Led Zeppelin, I was only six or seven. I had a false understanding of the music industry to be fair. But I always knew I wanted to sing."

Not that John – or, indeed, Deborah's mother and father – wanted her to follow in her illustrious brother's footsteps. "It wasn't something my brother or mum and dad wanted me to happen. Especially after seeing what the industry was like, with John. He was right too. It wasn't any place that he wanted his kid sister to be.

"So I did a bit of opera singing to start with. But I just loved blues/rock. And I love performing live. I was always going to do it. You can't deny what's in your heart."

Her parents encouraged her to succeed at school instead of pursuing her improbable dreams of being a rock singer. She took their advice, to a point. "One great thing I did was learn to speak French at school. I sort of stuck with it and now, for me, one of the best places to tour is France. I often think of my brother and mum and dad telling me to stop at school and learn and I think of how I mastered French because, of course, it paid off. Except I use the language to help me sing the blues."

Deborah, who hails from Redditch, is back on her old stomping ground soon with a headline gig coming up at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on September 22. It's her second in the region in recent times. Back in May she headlined Birmingham's Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers, the former Free vocalist who also sang with Queen. The Paul Rodgers gigs were a blast and Deborah is looking forward to being back in the West Midlands.

"I'm really excited about it. I can't remember the last time I played Wolverhampton, it was many years ago. I love it up there. Any chance I get to come and play up there is great. We did Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers and that was one of the most amazing gigs."

She used to spend most of her life in the Black Country, hanging out with bands and watching gigs.

"We always used to come over. I saw Slade. I remember seeing them at the Wulfrun Hall and they were bloody brilliant. They were a real rocking band."

She also played a gig when

Singing the blues – Deborah Bonham returns to the Slade Rooms



'Uncle' Robert Plant turned up to do a duet – much to the surprise of fans. That was at Huntingdon Hall, in Worcester, not far from Robert's Kidderminster home.

"Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history with Led Zeppelin, was a massive moment. Robert's been like a brother or uncle to me. That was at Huntingdon Hall. He turned up and got up to sing with me, unbeknownst to the audience.

That was a high moment. When things like that happen, it's an honour isn't it.

"But there's been a lot of amazing moments in my life. Every day I think how lucky I've been. I was a big fan of one of the all time greatest female vocalists, Ann Peebles, who had a hit with I Can't Stand The Rain. We ended up doing something together, a few shows, and we recorded a version of Can't Stand The Rain.

"I've been extremely blessed because I've had the joy of playing with the most incredible people. To get up on stage with Humble Pie, when they reformed with Peter Frampton, was incredible and I guess the Paul Rodgers thing was another recent highlight."

Deborah has other memories of Wolverhampton – and not all of them musical. Like so many Midlands rock stars, she's a fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers and has enjoyed seeing them play.

"It's the home

*Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history, was a massive moment*

ground of Wolverhampton Wanderers and I've got to say I'm a fan. I went to the Wolves on one occasion to see them play Liverpool. We thrashed them. We stopped off at those Bathams pubs on the way for a drink. Everybody thought we'd get thrashed but I think we must have put five passed them that day."

She's grateful for the way her life turned out and says she owes much of her success to growing up with John and the rest of her family in a musical household.

"I guess my mom and dad were very musical. My mom always sang a little, not seriously but, but she loved good music. They were fans of the big bands like Count Basie. That was pretty much John's focus too. My dad loved all the black soul divas like Lena Horne and Mahalia Jackson. He would play a lot of that music. I grew up listening to that. Both my brothers, John and Michael, got into the Motown stuff, as well as the rock. It was a real eclectic house. I was listening to Jimi Hendrix and Joplin and all of that, CSN and Fleetwood Mac, but I was also steeped in the British movement and The Kinks. Then Zeppelin took off and everything changed."

● Tickets are available from the venue.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Parquet Courts – album and tour



# Holding Courts on matters of the heart

New York art rockers Parquet Courts follow their latest album *Human Performance* with a UK visit including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday, August 31.

The band, who have a sound akin to Beck, Talking Heads and Franz Ferdinand, have released fifth album *Human Performance*, their second via Rough Trade.

Whereas other Parquet Courts albums were recorded in days or weeks, for *Human Performance* the band took an entire year and it's the first LP that finds all four band members contributing songs.

The album brings sonic experimentation and melodic introspection to matters of the heart, matters of humanity, of identity. "I told you I loved you, did I even deserve it when you returned it?" singer/guitarist

Andrew Savage wonders on the title track. It's also their most pop-oriented collection yet, coming only months after the release of the largely instrumental *Monastic Living* EP, that was made at the same time.

Across six years, four full-length albums, and two EPs, Parquet Courts have littered their lyrics with question marks. If previous album 2014's *Content Nausea* – with Savage and Austin Brown recording as Parkay Quarts – looked at anxiety in the age of big data, then on *Human Performance* the question marks get turned on themselves.

"There is a lot of darkness, and general anguish being worked out on this record," Brown adds. "But it ends kind of peacefully, kind of accepting that you can't do much about it."

# Cole gets a kick out of comedy venture



Comedy fans will be able to get their kicks at Walsall Football Club in a forthcoming feast of laughter.

The Just For Kicks show, to be staged at the Banks's Stadium on October 27, is the mastermind of Wednesbury-born comic Jonny Cole, pictured. It will feature TV comics Joe Lycett, from Birmingham, and Phoenix Nights' Archie Kelly alongside Dudley's Wayne Beese.

Cole is the driving force and he hopes to make it a regular feature. The former diesel salesman has

emerged as an unstoppable musical-comedy force since his re-workings of well-known tunes have proved popular with audiences all over Britain. He was a headline act on the UK tour of A Black Country Night Out and has been a regular on local radio shows. He has even had a local beer named Fat Face in his honour by Stourbridge-based Sadler's Brewery.

Cole said: "I'm really excited about this venture and hopefully it will become an on-going thing. The football club are right behind me and have given me the freedom to deliver a great night to remember. Even my family want to come to this

one. Both Joe Lycett and Archie Kelly are big names on TV and it will be great for people to get to see them on the same bill in such a fantastic venue."

Lycett is currently working on new material for a national tour next year and has appeared on TV shows including Live At The Apollo, Taskmaster and Sunday Brunch.

Early bird tickets at £14 are available from Walsall Football Club on 01922 651416 or eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc.

For further information contact Jonny Cole on 07376 248521 or Wayne Thomas on 07551 170675.

# Bold as brass at the Grand Theatre

Musicians and actors were in the wings last night (Wednesday) poised to deliver the first in-house production Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for 40 years. Brassed Off sees director Gareth Tudor Price working with professional and local amateur actors and musicians

on the story of a pit band going for glory in a national brass band competition. *Hi-de-Hi!* star Jeffrey Holland, pictured, plays ex-miner and conductor, Danny. The play runs to September 2.



# Get into the swing with vintage sounds

Fans of big band swing and jive dancing can get vintage kicks at Symphony Hall Birmingham this bank holiday Sunday when the prestigious concert hall is turned into a 1930s style ballroom.

Retro sounds will be heard when the Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra get their joint jumping with arrangements from such as Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman. The Swing Era will perform high-energy Lindy Hop routines after, earlier in the day, offering swing dance lessons at the venue's Ever-After Vintage Tea Dance. The event will also feature the Sugarfoot Stomp DJs. Tickets for the evening concert cost £22.50 to £27.50 and admission to the 11am and 2pm tea dance sessions are £12.50 to £18. No partners required but vintage dress encouraged. See thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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**Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70 (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Jack Whitehall traces the history of the Edinburgh Festival, as the annual event reaches its 70th anniversary. First conceived in 1947 as part of the 'healing process' for a Britain emerging from the misery and austerity of the Second World War, the Festival was considered a bastion of idealism, and the Fringe was brought into existence in the same year, bringing with it a form of creative anarchy. Jack reflects on the many ground-breaking encounters between artists, musicians, writers and performers that the Edinburgh Festival has facilitated over the years, and examines the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture both in the UK and abroad.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Diamond League Athletics: Zurich Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Wigan Warriors v Hull FC (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.30** **BBC News.** **6.40** **Regional Programme.** **6.45** **Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme.** Nina Wadia, Gareth Malone, Vikki Stone and Ore Oduba help a pair of would-be poets battle through four rounds of rhyme-based challenges. **7.20** **Pointless Celebrities.** Lizzie Webb, Chris Steele, Robin Cousins, Rosemary Conley, Iwan Thomas, Katharine Merry, Dr Dawn Harper and Dr Pixie McKenna compete in a 'health and fitness' edition of the quiz. (R) **8.05** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series. **8.45** **Casualty.** Part two of two. The team of Holby medics continue their efforts to help migrant refugees in need of medical attention on the French coast. However, Dylan is fast becoming frustrated with how little he can offer the camp, and makes a decision he may come to regret. Meanwhile, back in the UK, Jez faces the repercussions of crossing paths with the Ellissons, as an improvised explosive is thrown through the window of his home, placing both Robyn and baby Charlotte in jeopardy. **9.35** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. Rory's secret is revealed to his mother. (R) **10.05** **BBC News:** Weather. National Lottery Update. **10.25** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Leicester City and Bournemouth v Manchester City. **11.55** **People Just Do Nothing.** **12.25** **Film:** In the Electric Mist. (2009) **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.20** Coast. (R) **7.20** **Film:** The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **8.45** **Film:** The Magnificent Ambersons. (1942) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **10.55** Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly. (R) **11.55** **Film:** Bedknobs and Broomsticks. (1971) **1.50** Wanted Under Under. (R) **2.20** Mastermind. (R) **2.50** Only Connect. (R) **3.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.20** Final Score. **5.20** University Challenge. (R) **5.50** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. Culinary competition, hosted by Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain. (R) **6.50** **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham Soweto Kinch and John Butt review Bach's St John's Passion from Prom 49, and the Charles Mingus Prom, featuring Kandace Springs, Shabaka Hutchings and Christian Scott. **7.30** **Nina Conti's Edinburgh Festival.** The comedian and ventriloquist showcases some highlights of the festival, chatting to Irvine Welsh about his show Performers and meeting poet and musician Benjamin Clementine. **8.00** **Iolo's Great Welsh Parks.** Nature expert Iolo Williams visits Padarn Country Park near Llanberis in Snowdonia, hoping to see the likes of ring ouzel, wood warblers and pied flycatchers. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Walker is caught smuggling Italian POWs out of camp at night, but far from being a traitor, he is furthering the war effort – and making some money on the side. (R) **9.00** **Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70.** Jack Whitehall reflects on the history of the Edinburgh Festival, and the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture on an international scale. **10.00** **Performance Live: Get a Round.** A trio of friends hell-bent on having a good time, wonder whether a big night out can save the world. Theatrical comedy, starring Sara Cocker, Lowri Evans and Leonie Higgins. **10.40** **Film: The Help.** (2011) An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis. **1.00** **Film:** The German Doctor. (2013) Fact-based drama, starring Alex Brendemuhl. **2.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.25** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.20** Gok's Lunchbox. (R) **11.15** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The Chase. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing Live: York Ebor Festival. The fourth and final day of the festival. **3.55** Tipping Point. (R) **4.55** Little Big Shots USA. **5.50** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.15** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R) **7.15** **Catchphrase.** Amanda Tollan, Manish Mehta and Charlotte Myers set out to prove they can 'see it and say it' as Stephen Mulhern challenges them to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R) **8.00** **Les Dawson Forever.** Martin Clunes narrates a profile of the comedian, in which his daughter Charlotte Dawson examines the roots of her father's rise to fame. Roy Barraclough reveals how he and Dawson created some of their most famous comic creations, while Rick Wakeman reveals the secrets behind the comedian's trademark routines of deliberately off-key piano playing. **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.15** **Film: Captain Phillips.** (2013) The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi. **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.30** Motor Sport: Caterham. **7.00** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Lee McKenzie presents coverage from Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. **11.25** F1 Meets David Coulthard. **11.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **6.55** **Film: Ender's Game.** (2013) In the future, the human race has survived conflict with an alien race, but the prospect of war breaking out again is a constant threat. A gifted boy is selected as a potential military commander for the coming conflict, and subjected to a gruelling training program to prove his worth. Sci-fi adventure based on Orson Scott Card's novel, starring Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford and Ben Kingsley. Edited for violence. **9.00** **Film: Dumb and Dumber To.** (2014) Premiere. Dim-witted friends Harry and Lloyd are reunited after 20 years. When Harry discovers he has a daughter he never knew about, he breaks his friend out of a psychiatric hospital and they go on a road trip with the intention of fulfilling parental responsibilities neither of them is capable of. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. **11.10** **Film: Ted.** (2012) A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane. **1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay revisits three restaurants he tried to save. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Darren plans to take Shane down, Mandy panics over a letter from social services and Brody sabotages Scott's plans. **4.10** Location, Location, Location. Phil Spencer heads to Nottinghamshire to help find a home for a couple who have spent most of their relationship living with their parents. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. (R) **1.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** The enforcement agents try to mediate a dispute in a takeaway, and deal with rent evaders living in potentially deadly conditions. Plus, a businessman faces financial ruin. (R) **7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v West Indies. Highlights of the second day of the Second Test in the three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. With commentary and analysis from Mark Nicholas, Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. **8.00** **Supernatural Nazis.** New series. The role of occultism in Nazi Germany, revealing how religion and the supernatural were used in Hitler's pursuit of power. The first programme examines how the Nazis corrupted the teachings of Christianity to influence people to see Hitler as a messiah figure, and examines accusations that the Pope did too little to oppose them. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray presents highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Bristol City v Aston Villa at Ashton Gate, Nottingham Forest v Leeds United at The City Ground, and Middlesbrough v Preston North End at Riverside Stadium. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Rochdale v Bury, Wigan Athletic v Portsmouth, Mansfield Town v Luton Town, and Yeovil Town v Coventry City. **10.30** **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McAlarnon introducing their favourite clips. (R) **12.00** **Access.** **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Delete. **4.30** Access. (R) **4.40** Great Scientists. (R) **5.10** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.15** Billy Fury: The Sound of Fury **12.45** Britain's Most Fragile Treasure **1.45** The World's Most Expensive Stolen Paintings **2.45** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.45** Close **ITV2**  
**12.35** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.05** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.10** **Film:** Honey (2003) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** **Film:** Honey (2003) **4.05** **Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** **Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.55** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.10** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.05** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **2.05** Total! Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bunkingly Big Hits **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**2.50** **Film:** Casablanca (1942) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** **Film:** Casablanca (1942) **4.55** **Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** **Film:** The Queen (2006) **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **1.05** Wycliffe **2.00** Rising Damp **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**  
**11.50** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **12.50** Minder **1.50** The Professionals **2.50** The Darts Show **3.15** World Series of Darts: Perth **7.15** Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. **10.15** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.15** **Film:** The Krays (1990) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** **Film:** The Krays (1990) **1.40** Minder **2.45** Sporting Funnies **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**11.05** Don't Tell the Bride **12.05** Streetmate **1.05** The Goldbergs **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** **Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **9.00** **Film:** Immortals (2011) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4**  
**11.00** The Dark Crystal (1982) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.50** The Cat in the Hat (2003) **4.25** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **6.40** About Time (2013) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.40** The Guest (2014) **12.40** Taxi Driver (1976) **3.00** Close

Illustration showing various people using mobile devices (laptop, smartphone, tablet) in different settings (standing, sitting, lying down), symbolizing digital connectivity and customer engagement.

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## CHOICE



Tom Burke (left)

### Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling (BBC1, 9.05pm)

New series. Supermodel Lula Landry falls to her death from a Mayfair balcony and the police conclude that she committed suicide, but Lula's adoptive brother John Bristow believes she was murdered and that key evidence has been overlooked. He calls upon private investigator Cormoran Strike to examine the death further and the penniless and effectively homeless PI takes the case. Crime thriller based on books written by JK Rowling under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith, starring Tom Burke and Holliday Grainger. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Film: Toy Story 2. (1999) Animated sequel, with the voice of Tom Hanks.

**6.05** BBC News.

**6.20** Regional Programme.

**6.30** **Countryside.** Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present the show from the Llyn Peninsula on Wales' North West coast. Ellie explores the seagrass habitat and joins a marine conservation project studying the region's fish, while Steve meets dairy farmers who deliver their milk door to door and invents a new flavour of ice cream.

**7.30** **Diana, 7 Days.** Documentary exploring the week following Princess Diana's death, with first-hand accounts from those who found themselves at the centre of the ensuing events, including then prime minister Tony Blair, members of the royal household, and family members including Princes William and Harry.

**9.05** **Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling.** New series. Private detective Cormoran Strike is called in to investigate the apparent suicide of a supermodel. Crime thriller based on books by JK Rowling, starring Tom Burke. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.

**10.05** BBC News.

**10.25** Regional Programme.

**10.35** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield, Chelsea v Everton at Stamford Bridge, Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley at White Hart Lane and West Bromwich Albion v Stoke City at the Hawthorns. The fixture at Anfield was an early chance for the Reds and Gunners to test themselves against another of the leading contenders, while Chelsea continued their title defence against the much-changed Toffees.

**11.45** **Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R)

**12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead.

**12.35** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryside. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.45** Triathlon World Series: Stockholm. **3.30** Equestrian: European Championships.

**6.00** **Tribes, Predators & Me.** Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)

**7.00** **Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me.** The first of two programmes in which Gordon Buchanan encounters a family of African elephants in the wilds of Kenya, and attempts to gain their trust so he can observe them up close in their natural habitat. He enlists the aid of an expert from the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to learn about their behaviour as he follows an elephant with a new calf, and discovers what it takes for the youngest of the world's largest land animals to survive in the face of a challenging environment. (R)

**8.00** **Dragons' Den.** The panel cast an eye over plans for furniture made from old aeroplane parts, organic dog treats, healthy snacks and a company that buys and sells books. Presented by Evan Davis.

**9.00** **Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?** The candidates are put through more demanding tests as they are pushed to their limits in a simulated emergency splashdown.

**10.00** **III Behaviour.** Charlie is assumed to have committed suicide. Joel decides to visit Kira so he can comfort her, and finds himself enjoying taking over his friend's role in the family.

**11.00** **Film: The Ides of March.** (2011) A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney.

**12.35** **Film: Echoes from the Dead.** (2013) **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITY: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Film: K-9. (1989) **11.15** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.55** Joanna Lumley's Postcards. (R) **1.25** Catchphrase. (R) **2.10** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.10** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.40** **Film: Superman.** (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve.

**6.30** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **6.40** **ITV News: Weather.**

**7.00** **Possibly the Best Adverts in the World.** Hugh Dennis narrates a two-hour special in which celebrities select their favourite commercials from TV and the internet in a range of categories. Bill Bailey chooses adverts for food, Fay Ripley introduces health and beauty, Angus Deayton focuses on cars, Chris Ramsey looks at sweets, Joe Lycett tackles toys, and Chris Kamara looks back at cigarettes and alcohol.

**9.05** **Victoria.** New series. The second series of the drama about the early years of Queen Victoria's reign begins after the birth of her first child. She resumes her royal duties sooner than expected, and quickly becomes convinced that her husband and the prime minister are concealing troubling news about the conflict in Afghanistan, and turns to the Duke of Wellington for answers. Victoria also faces problems at home, as Albert's family descend on the palace for the christening, and continue to make plans for the future of the monarchy.

**10.10** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.20** **Judge Rinder's Crime Stories.** Barrister Robert Rinder reveals how the parents of a teenager killed by a speeding car campaigned for a change in the law that had allowed the driver to escape justice. (R)

**11.20** **5 Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R)

**12.15** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Simon. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Build Up. Steve Jones presents a preview of the 12th round of the season. **12.35** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 12th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm).

**3.10** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Reaction. **4.00** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** 50 Greatest Kids Films.

**7.00** **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year.** George Clarke presents the Pubs and Entertainment and Unexpected categories. Unusual structures featured include a hedgehog rescue centre, a West Country whisky den, a recreation of the Tardis from Doctor Who, and the UK's smallest cathedral.

**8.00** **From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier.** Levison Wood travels into the badlands of Dagestan, an area the foreign office warns against visiting. He experiences the hospitality of the local warrior clans and takes a journey on horseback to the ancient city of Derbent – with an armed guide to fend off wolves and bears. He then moves on to Azerbaijan, a country where extreme wealth exists alongside subsistence poverty.

**9.00** **Film: Taken 3.** (2014) Premiere. Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills' efforts to finally live a quiet life are shattered by the death of his ex-wife. Just when things seemingly can't get any worse, he is framed for her murder and must fight to clear his name. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.

**11.15** **Film: The Wolf of Wall Street.** (2013) A New York stockbroker rises from unemployment to become one of the richest men in the city's financial elite through an illegal scheme to defraud investors. His wealth brings him an outrageously debauched lifestyle, but comes at a price as the FBI become suspicious of his manipulation of the markets. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

**2.30** Speed with Guy Martin. Guy tries to cross the English Channel on a flying bicycle. (R) **3.55** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.50** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. **7.00** 50 Greatest Kids Films. **7.05** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R)

**8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

**1.00** Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **3.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R)

**6.00** **All New Traffic Cops.** An intoxicated driver heads the wrong way down the A1 near Leeds. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v West Indies.

**8.00** **Can't I Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Stewart and Ian head to Manchester, where a landlord is owed £8,000 in rent arrears and has already called for police back-up. Meanwhile, Brian and Del chase £3,000. (R)

**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** **Funny Women: The Mel & Sue Story.** Profile of entertainers Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, who have become famed for their irreverent, raised-eyebrow humour and cheeky innuendo. Both hailing from south London, Mel and Sue met at Cambridge and like so many others, honed their self-effacing double act on the stages of Edinburgh before breaking into TV fronting the Channel 4's daytime chat show Light Lunch. While at one point Mel came close to bankruptcy, the duo's luck was in when, in 2010, they were asked to host an unlikely sounding new show called The Great British Bake Off. Its enormous – though unexpected – success established them as top-of-the-game presenting talents.

**10.30** **Sue Perkins' Comedy Greats: The Entertainers.** **12.20** Named and Shamed: Greatest Celebrity Scandals. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Delete.

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** BBC Proms 2017: Chopin Preludes **9.00** Gluck: Who Did She Think He Was? **10.00** Metal at the BBC **10.30** Muse: Reading Festival 2017 **12.00** Queen: From Fags to Rhassidy **1.00** Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert **2.00** Metal at the BBC **2.30** Gluck: Who Did She Think He Was? **3.30** Close

**ITV2**

**12.00** Ninja Warrior UK **1.00** Mr Bean **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.40** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **3.40** **Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** **Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **6.00** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.55** **Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** **Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **10.30** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.25** **Film:** Carry On Girls (1973) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** **Film:** Carry On Girls (1973) **1.15** Foyle's War **3.15** Royal Stories **3.50** Rosamund Pike **4.25** **Film:** The Young Victoria (2009) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** **Film:** The Young Victoria (2009) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** **Film:** The English Patient (1996) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** **Film:** The English Patient (1996) **2.55** Wycliffe **3.50** The Darling Buds of May **4.45** Rising Damp **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**5.45** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** World Series of Darts: Perth **12.00** **Film:** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** **Film:** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.00** Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Buds **1.00** **Film:** 2.05 Mrs Muppet Treasure Island (1996) **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Predators (2010) **11.05** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.10** Don't Tell the Bride **1.15** Body Builders **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Rude Tube

**Film4**

**11.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **1.00** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **3.25** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **5.50** Avatar (2009) **9.00** The World's End (2013) **11.10** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.05** The Warriors (1979) **3.00** Close

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**SAT 8.00am - 5.30pm**  
**Bank Holiday - 10.00am - 5.00pm**



FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**The Theory of Everything, ITV, 9pm**  
Biopic of Stephen Hawking, exploring the renowned astrophysicist's romance with future wife Jane during their time at university in the 1960s and his initial diagnosis with motor neurone disease, which doctors believed would lead to his death within two years. Undaunted by deteriorating health, he continued his groundbreaking research into the origins of the universe. Starring an Oscar-winning Eddie Redmayne, with Felicity Jones and David Thewlis. (2014)

TUESDAY

**Bedtime Stories, BBC2, 2pm**  
A downtrodden handyman is forced to look after his niece and nephew. He soon wins them over with his knack for telling exciting stories, but to their surprise the tall tales start coming true – and as the children make their own suggestions, the results become even more incredible. Fantasy comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Keri Russell and Russell Brand. (2008)



The Theory of Everything, Monday, ITV, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

**The Muppets, BBC2, 1.45pm**  
Three fans of the famous puppet variety show discover a powerful businessman is going to knock down the Muppet theatre and drill for oil on the site. They track down frontman Kermit the frog and persuade him to reunite his co-stars, so they can put on one last performance to save the venue. Comedy, starring Jason Segel. (2011)

THURSDAY

**Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz and Samantha Ferris. (2014)

FRIDAY

**The Box, BBC1, 12.10am**  
A couple receive a box that will make them rich at the press of a button – but if they do so, someone will die. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden. (2009)

# Margaret reveals all about her life in the spotlight

American drama The Handmaid's Tale made its UK television debut on Channel 4 in May and became one of the biggest successes of the year, receiving 13 Emmy nominations before being renewed for a second season set to air in 2018.

Based on the 1985 book of the same name, the show imagines a future in which nuclear war has left a large percentage of the human population infertile and young women are forced to sleep with powerful men called Leaders and bear their children.

The young women – known as Handmaids – are assigned to the men and are essentially raped, in warped rituals involving the Leaders' wives, in a bid to fall pregnant and continue the human race.

The story is told through the eyes of a Handmaid called Offred (played by Elisabeth Moss) and switches between the present horror she is living in and the past, as the world starts to tumble into the chaos and disorder that has led

to a totalitarian regime.

Perhaps one of the reasons the dark drama has been so successful is that many feel the subject matter is incredibly prescient given the Donald Trump administration, the feminism movement and the instability of the world.

Indeed, the book's author, Canadian Margaret Atwood has claimed that the 2016 US Presidential Election led to an increase in sales of The Handmaid's Tale even before the success of the aforementioned TV adaptation.

Atwood's star is now shining brighter than ever, but her success is not only down to this one novel – for decades she has been universally acclaimed as Canada's greatest living writer.

She is a winner of the Arthur C Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, and has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once for her historical novel The Blind Assassin.

In 2001, she was inducted into

Canada's Walk of Fame and is also a founder of the Writers' Trust of Canada, a non-profit literary organisation that seeks to encourage Canada's writing community.

Atwood is also an inventor, and has developed the LongPen that facilitates the remote robotic writing of documents.

While she is best known for her work as a novelist, she has also published 15 books of poetry, with many of her pieces inspired by myths and fairytales, which have been interests of hers from an early age.

And her upbringing is one of the key topics up for discussion when the writer and activist meets up with Alan Yentob in Toronto for tonight's Imagine.

Atwood explains how a childhood spent between the wilderness of northern Quebec and the city helped shape her vision of herself and the world, set alight her imagination and set her forth on a path to literary success.

## PICK OF THE WEEK



Imagine – Margaret Atwood: You Have Been Warned!, Monday, BBC1, 10.30pm

## BEST OF THE REST

are keen to show they are the best in Britain. They are about to be faced with cake week, as they whip up a fruity signature bake, before tackling a children's tea party classic for the technical challenge and then creating a tricky illusion cake for the showstopper. But who will be more nervous – the contestants or Channel 4 as it waits to find out if the viewers have followed the Bake Off to its new home?

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Love Your Home and Garden**  
**ITV, 8pm**

The most recent run of Love Your Garden may have only finished last week, but Alan Titchmarsh is already back with a new series – and this time, he's not just transforming deserving people's backyards, he's also tackling their interiors as well. In the first episode, he travels to Banbury, Oxfordshire, to meet Donna and Lee, and their daughters Claudia, 12, and Leoni, 9. Four years ago, Donna suffered a near-fatal heart attack which left her with severely restricted sight, and her young daughters now act as her carers. Alan discovers



Educating Greater Manchester, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

that the family's cramped, cluttered rooms and dark interiors are making it difficult for Donna to move around the house without tripping, so he sets about creating a light-filled space, while also turning the garden from a place currently used for storing rubbish into somewhere the girls can play.

**THURSDAY**  
**Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World**  
**Channel 5, 9pm**

They may be young, but the children featured in this documentary series are often experienced beyond their years, thanks to the freedoms and challenges that come with being part of one of the most marginalised communities in Britain. In the first episode of the series, we meet nine-year-old Irish traveller Margaret and her cousins, who are being evicted by bailiffs every seven days – and after they recently pulled their trailers into a school playground, resulting in 900 pupils being told

to say home, emotions are running high. Meanwhile, nine-year-old Indiana is moving into a chalet on her family's site, which means she will have a bed to herself – and, for the first time, a bathroom inside her home.

**Educating Greater Manchester**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

New series. Life at Harrop Fold Secondary in Salford, Greater Manchester, a school at the heart of a changing community, following the teachers dealing with daily events. In this first episode, the pupils are comparing Trump's hairstyle with Hitler's, writing rude words on the back of a delivery van, and adjusting to an influx of students from a range of foreign countries. The school also has to respond to the shockwaves of the terrorist attack at the Ariana Grande concert, which eight of the pupils and one teacher attended.

**FRIDAY**  
**World Cup Live**  
**ITV, 7.15pm**

Malta v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the Group F qualifier from Ta' Qali National Stadium in Attard. Malta have lost every group match so far, but produced a spirited display in last October's reverse fixture at Wembley.

FREE

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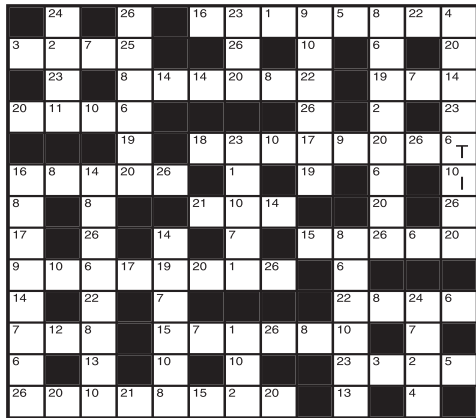


## BRAIN GYM

No.444

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	B	2	H	3	Q	4	J	5	V	6	S	7	T	8	C	9	K	10	L	11	A	12	Y	13	M
14	I	15	D	16	Z	17	F	18	P	19	G	20	O	21	E	22	R	23	N	24	X	25	W	26	U

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

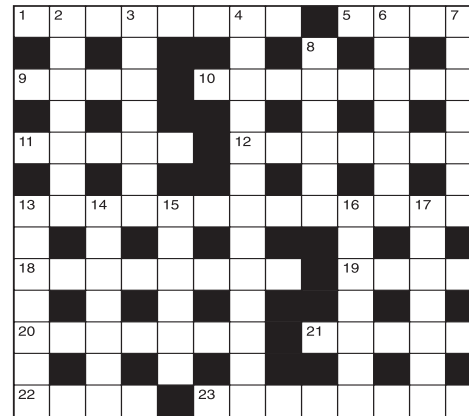
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- One instrument before another in the dance (8)
- This deck looks just the same both ways (4)
- Just one appearing in distant setting (4)
- He seeks perfection for one transaction before it's ruined (8)
- Coming from the chandler's is a long rope (5)
- Framework on which climbers are trained (7)
- Used by one with a view to entertainment (10,3)
- Make a record showing the range of a voice (8)
- Sounds like part of a gun emplacement (4)
- Applaud an application to the insurance company, we hear (7)
- Appears to observe the manuscript (5)
- Waterproof clothes used by painters (4)
- A man of scruples, as far as physics are concerned! (8)

## Down

- Like some stonework on a track (7)
- Hurried back with the price to present an account (7)
- Master pleaded for a ship (6,7)
- Nothing strangely rising from these sources (7)
- One with a complaint not complaining! (7)
- What the drummer produces for a military spectacle? (6)
- Road not affected by severe weather (7)
- Record one visit cut short - that's reasonable (7)
- Long-range spectacles (6)
- An accumulation reposing in the bird sanctuary? (4-3)
- Makes the situation grave (7)



## Quick Clues:

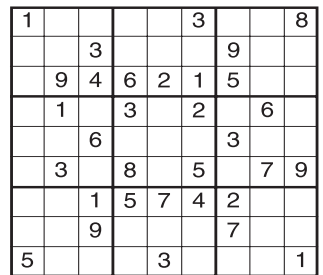
## Across

- Carry on (8)
- Great potentate (4)
- Stupefy (4)
- Acute poverty (8)
- Droll (5)
- Scintillate (7)
- Declaration (13)
- Curb (8)
- Wise (4)
- Sedition (7)
- Bolt (5)
- Appear (4)
- Estrange (8)

## Down

- Open-air (7)
- Stress (7)
- Inadvertent (13)
- Spot (7)
- Esteem (7)
- Hit (6)
- Corsairs (7)
- Indecent (7)
- Attack (6)
- Errand (7)
- Overlook (7)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

1	9	2	3	8	4	5	6	7
4	5	7	2	9	6	1	8	3
3	6	8	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	3	6	8	7	2	4	1	5
8	1	5	4	6	3	9	7	2
2	7	4	9	5	1	6	3	8
6	4	1	5	3	7	8	2	9
5	8	3	6	2	9	7	4	1
7	2	9	1	4	8	3	5	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lilies; 4 Ransom; 9 Gives one's word; 10 Collect; 11 Natal; 12 Skate; 14 Hewed; 18 Okapi; 19 Rosette; 21 Knock-out punch; 22 Nudity; 23 Wagers. Down: 1 Legacy; 2 Live like a lord; 3 Ensur; 5 Absence; 6 Short sentence; 7 Models; 8 Knots; 13 Trinket; 15 Look in; 16 Trout; 17 Meshes; 20 Sepia.  
QUICK - Across: 1 Hidden; 4 Intend; 9 Off one's own bat; 10 America; 11 Lilies; 12 Leap; 14 Delay; 18 Attic; 19 Overseer; 21 Head over heels; 22 Sheath; 23 Crater. Down: 1 Hookah; 2 Differentiate; 3 Ennu; 5 Nowhere; 6 Embarrassment; 7 Dither; 8 Essay; 13 Pick out; 15 Pathos; 16 Bower; 17 Geyser; 20 Ether.

## Quiz

- How is the convolvulus genus of plants also known?
- Which flower is depicted on the Royal British Legion's logo?
- On which part of the body is a lobotomy performed?
- In Greek mythology, from whose blood is the winged horse Pegasus supposed to have sprung?
- Which major London store removed the royal warrants from its shopfront in December 2000?
- What was the capital of the Confederacy in the US Civil War?
- Who was the first Hollywood legend to feature on a US postage stamp?
- In which year was the GLC abolished?
- What is the medical specialty concerned with the study of disease processes called?
- Which late US actor's real surname was Matuschanskayasky?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 A fragrant shrub; 2 Parakeet; 3 Malcolm McDowell; 4 Outer Hebrides; 5 Daniele Gatti; 6 Richard III; 7 Xylophone; 8 Friends of the Earth; 9 Opal; 10 Dave Bassett.

Niner: HERALDING

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

959156  
2924586  
6536874

gives a participant,  
gives a casual participant,  
gives a second casual participant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Enjoy living it up like the A-listers

IT'S not uncommon to go to Los Angeles and bump into an A-lister or four. I once saw Johnny Depp about 15 minutes after I'd ogled his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

But, when celebrities need a quick escape from the glitz and paparazzi, they hop on a plane to Los Cabos. The Mexican hideaway, on the sun-baked tip of the southern Baja California peninsula, is just two and a half hours from LAX airport. Probably less if you're zooming over via private jet, like the Kardashians clan.

Los Cabos has two major towns connected by 'the Corridor' - San Jose del Cabo (more chilled) and Cabo San Lucas (more lively) - and a whole load of palm-fringed beach in between. Here are seven reasons why celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, George Clooney and Cameron Diaz are such big fans of the destination...

1. The Thunderbirds-style villas

Cindy Crawford and George Clooney built side-by-side 'Casamigos' Cabo villas, Sylvester Stallone spends his winters in Pedregal, and Jennifer Aniston practically has her own hideaway on a luxury hotel complex. Mainly only visible by boat and nestled in cliffs - just like Thunderbirds' Tracy HQ.

2. The whale watching

You may not even need to go on a boat trip to see the spectacle of grey, blue and humpback whales. From the end of November to March, chances are you'll be lucky enough to spot them from your sunlounger.

3. The super spas

Spas are anything but low-key in Los Cabos. Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Alba and Cameron Diaz are all said to be regulars at Las Ventanas al Paraiso's spa, which resembles a colonial Mexican hacienda.

4. The Mexican cuisine

Nothing quite hits the spot like authentic creamy guac, tortillas and tacos.

Sunloungers and sea views at Grand Velas



A surfer on Los Cabos beach at sunset



5. The statement art

Where do the likes of George Clooney and Leonardo DiCaprio go to get one-off works of art? They've been known to browse San Jose Del Cabo's famous gallery district (artcabos.com); a downtown hive of creativity featuring original paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery and glasswork.

6. The Sea of Cortez cruises

You're unlikely to see celebs on guided excursions - although Cabo Adventures do offer an excellent Luxury Day Sailing trip for \$109 per person for four hours (cabo-

adventures.com). A-listers are more likely to charter their squad a super-luxe yacht.

7. The celebrity standards

When your private butler shows you to your room and asks if you'd like the contents of your suitcase unpacked while you hit the beach, you know the resort's got celebrity appeal. That the level of service at the new super-luxe Grand Velas Los Cabos. The 304-room resort opened in late 2016 and Hollywood actress Juliette Lewis was one of the first to check-in. From sunloungers surrounding the triple-tier infinity pool, to serene beach

cabanas there are countless places to kick back and feast on insanely tasty tostadas.

How to get there...

Rooms from US \$548 (£434 approx) per person per night, all-inclusive. Visit [loscabos.grandvelas.com](http://loscabos.grandvelas.com)

Fly from London Heathrow to Cabo San Lucas SJD via Mexico City with Aeromexico, from £499.47 in November 2017. Visit [aeromexico.com](http://aeromexico.com)

For details on Los Cabos in Mexico, visit [visitoscabos.travel](http://visitoscabos.travel)

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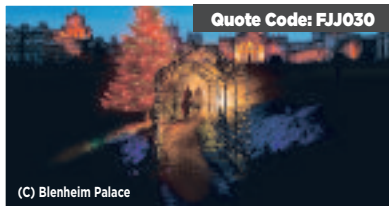
\*Please note: Not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

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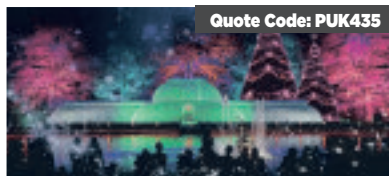
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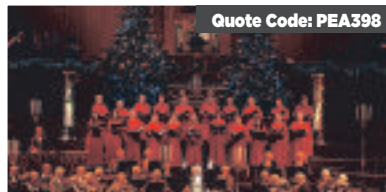
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## Outstanding three-bed home in sought-after road

A highly attractive and outstanding three-bedroomed detached home, 51 Oakham Road, Dudley, lies in one of the area's most sought after and desirable roads.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £328,000.

This impressive property has very well maintained accommodation having some fine features. This briefly comprises an enclosed porch, reception hall, superb through lounge/dining area with bay windows to the front and rear, re-fitted fine breakfast kitchen, conservatory, spacious landing, three good-sized bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, adjoining garaging and has delightful, excellent sized gardens.

The property is set back from the road behind a screened paved frontage with shrubbery gardens and driveway giving access to the garage.

Having a bay window, the through lounge/dining area has a period style gas fired stove and French doors opening to the rear garden.

The breakfast kitchen includes an integral electric oven, gas hob and extractor over, a built in fridge/freezer, splash back tiling, provision for a washing machine and slate tiled flooring and a pantry with the same flooring.

The conservatory is accessed from the kitchen. This again has slate tiled flooring.

From the reception hall, a U-shaped staircase leads to the first floor landing.

Bedroom one has laminate flooring. Bedroom two has stripped floorboards. Bedroom three has laminate flooring.

The bathroom has a re-fitted suite with a P-shaped bath with a shower mixer tap and screen, tiled flooring and a chrome-effect radiator.

Outside, the rear garden is enclosed and mainly laid to lawn, having a mixture of mature shrub and plant borders and a paved path between leading to an additional retaining wall with steps up to mature gardens with path between leading to a further area at the rear.

The garage is accessed via the driveway at the front of the property and has an up and over door to the front.

DUDLEY £328,000



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Trinity Property

TEL: 01384 213395

EMAIL: dudley@trinityproperty.net

### KEY FEATURES

Detached home


3 good sized bedrooms

Re-fitted bathroom

Diner, kitchen & conservatory

Excellent sized rear garden



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DY1 1DB**

**e: dudley@trinityproperty.net**

**DUDLEY**  
**Himley Road**

**NEW**

A development of immaculately presented one and two bedroom recently refurbished modernised flats. AVAILABLE NOW situated on the Himley road within walking distance of Dudley town centre. Newly fitted kitchens including integrated oven/hobs. Gas central heating, Modernised Bathroom Suite, NO DSS, No Pets, EPC D, Viewing is highly recommended call now to register your interest! Prices range from £495 pcm to £595pcm.

**£495-£595 PCM & Fees**

**DUDLEY**  
**Hilderic Crescent**

**NEW**

A two bed first floor apartment with double glazing and central heating. Spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen. Bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Two large double bedrooms. Unfurnished, available now for long term rental. No DSS, no pets

**£460 PCM & FEES**

**DUDLEY**  
**Nelson Road**

Trinity Property are delighted to announce we have this Spacious & Contemporary Fully Furnished Double Room with its own Ensuite & Kitchenette inc Fridge-Freezer & Microwave Oven, NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED.

Communal Kitchen, Newly Refurbished House near Dudley town centre. Friendly, happy professional housemates. Very Low cost to move straight in! Bills Included Council Tax, Gas, Water & Communal Electricity

**£85 P/W & Fees**

**DUDLEY**  
**Lavender Road**

**NEW**

A stunning refurbished house share with two rooms available to rent. Fully furnished rooms, all bills included. Wifi included. Close to local amenities, No DSS, No pets. EPC C.

**£88.00 P/W &**

**WEDNESBURY**  
**Phoenix Rise**

**NEW**

Trinity Property is pleased to offer a 2 Bedroom Terraced House which consists of: 2 Bedroom, Lounge with Patio door, Fitted kitchen, Bathroom, Rear garden, Parking outside.

Welcome to DSS  
The property will be available 15th July 2016.

**£525 PCM & FEES**

**DUDLEY**  
**Buffery Road**

**NEW**

A well presented and recently re-modernised end terraced property having an entrance hallway, lounge, inner hallway, guest WC, cellar, modern kitchen/diner, first floor landing leading to two good sized bedrooms, family bathroom/WC with shower over the bath, garden and parking to the rear. Must be viewed EPC - E

**£525 PCM & FEES**

**SEDGLEY**  
**Brook Street**

**LET**

A six room house share - beautifully converted and within easy reach of Sedgley village. A range of rooms (all double rooms) over three floors with an exclusive loft apartment. All rooms have ensuite WC/shower room and are fully furnished with modern furniture, double glazing, central heating and a fridge. Shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer. Rear garden with a shed for storage. Parking available nearby. All bills included in the rent, long and short term lets available, no

**£100 P/W & Fees**

**DUDLEY**  
**Heath Green**

**NEW**

Two bedroom mid terraced house. Has lounge, fitted kitchen includes integrated oven. Downstairs wc. Bathroom with shower on 1st floor, two good sized bedrooms. Driveway and rear garden.

Unfurnished, Dss ok with working guarantor. No pets. EPC C

**£525 PCM & FEES**

**BRIERLEY HILL**  
**Byrchen Moor Gardens**

**TO LET**

A modern, end terraced two bedroom house with off road parking, low maintenance garden to the rear, double glazing and central heating. Having a lounge, dining kitchen and conservatory on the ground floor, and two good-sized bedrooms on the first floor. Alarmed, unfurnished, available November 2014. No DSS. EPC D

**£535 PCM & Fees**

**DUDLEY**  
**Pages Croft**

**NEW**

Modern two bedroom apartment. Has open plan lounge & fully fitted kitchen to include built in appliances. Bathroom with shower. Main bedroom with en suite. Unfurnished.

Secure entry with intercom. Allocated parking area. No Dss. No pets. Available now

**£545 PCM & Fees**

**DUDLEY**  
**St James Road**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**

A one bed newly converted ground floor apartment, with double glazing and electric heating and off road, allocated parking. Within walking distance of Dudley Town centre. Having an open plan lounge/diner fitted kitchen with built in appliances, bath/WC with shower over the bath, double bedroom. Unfurnished, available now for long term. No DSS, no pets. EPC C

**£475 PCM & FEES**

**DUDLEY**  
**St James Road**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**

A modern one bed ground floor apartment with double glazing and electric heating - with allocated off-road parking, within walking distance of Dudley Town Centre. Having an open plan lounge/diner fitted kitchen, shower/WC off, and a double bedroom. Unfurnished, available now for long term let. No DSS, no pets. EPC C

**£450 & FEES**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
**Chetwynd Road**

and driveway to the front. No DSS. No pets. EPC - E, Available now.

**£550 PCM & Fees**

**DUDLEY**  
**Ruiton Street**

**TO LET**

A modern, ground floor office suite with two main offices, separate kitchen and WC. BT Broadband connection available. Secure parking to the rear, available now to view. Main office is 16'2" x 11'11" Annex (left main office) is 6'9" x 6'9" WC/Kitchen area 4'9" x 7'3" Rear office 13'8" x 11'

**£500 PCM & fees**

**BILSTON**  
**Edge Street**

**NEW**

A one bed first floor apartment, newly decorated throughout, with double glazing and electric heating. Having a lounge/diner kitchen with a bathroom/WC and shower over the bath, and a good sized bedroom. Unfurnished, available now for long term. EPC C

**£400 PCM & FEES**

**DUDLEY**  
**Kent Street**

A first floor, self contained flat in a detached building, with double glazing and electric heating. Having a good sized lounge/diner, fitted kitchen and bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath. No pets. Unfurnished, available now for long term rental. Off road parking to rear. Dss considered with suitable guarantor. Virgin media services available at this property. EPC F

**£425 PCM & FEES**

**DUDLEY**  
**Kent Street**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**

A first floor, self contained flat in a semi-detached building, with double glazing and electric heating. Having a good sized lounge/diner, double bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath. No pets. Unfurnished, AVAILABLE NOW for long term rental. Off road parking to rear by arrangement. NO DSS, EPC rating F.

**£425PCM & FEES**

**Dudley**  
**Beaumaris Close**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**

A splendid three bed detached house on the popular Richborough Estate, in a cul de sac location. Having a driveway to the side, decking and private rear garden with shed/workshop. Internally there is a downstairs WC, lounge, open plan fitted kitchen/diner and conservatory to rear. Upstairs has three good sized bedrooms (two doubles and a single) and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, available now for long term, no DSS, no Pets. EPC D

**£675.00 PCM & FEES**

**TIPTON**  
**Ferguson Drive**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**

Modern two bedroom 1st floor apartment, Lounge with sofa, Fitted kitchen with appliances included, Bathroom with shower, Main bedroom including furniture, part furnished, allocated parking & secure entry with intercom, No dss. No pets. EPC - B

**£525 PCM & FEES**

**Dudley**  
**Maple Road**

**LET**

A Beautiful three bedroom semi detached house in central Dudley, with off road parking and central heating. Newly decorated lounge, fitted Kitchen with dining area, downstairs shower room/WC with upstairs WC. Three bedrooms (two doubles, one single). Patio and low maintenance garden & green house to rear with drive to the side. Two sheds to the rear. Unfurnished. NO PETS, NO DSS. EPC D Must be viewed.

**£575 PCM & FEES**

**Dudley**  
**School Street**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**

A nicely presented three bedroom first floor flat, a short walk from Sedgley town centre & close to local amenities and public transport links. Having double glazing and central heating. The flat has a spacious hallway with doors leading to two large double bedrooms and a further single. Bathroom/WC with shower over the bath, lounge and separate kitchen with appliances cooker/fridge. The flat is situated above Sedgley Working Mens Club, Electric and Water will be a fixed additional monthly cost, Unfurnished, available now for long term. No pets, No DSS. AVAILABLE NOW TO VIEW - register your interest today!

**£575 PCM & FEES**

**TIPTON**  
**Ferguson Drive**

**LET**

A spacious, modern two bed top (2nd floor) apartment, with double glazing and electric heating. Having two off road parking spaces, pleasant communal gardens, the interior is modern and clean - good sized lounge with spacious kitchen/diner with white goods, two double bedrooms and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. No DSS, no pets, long term lets considered. Available to view now, first to see will take it. EPC C

**£475 PCM & FEES**



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**DUDLEY  
Ripley Grove**

**NEW**



It is a New 2 Bedroom Apartment  
Offers in Excess Of: £99,950

**OPEN HOUSE**

The property is available to view on the 28th date and with no appointment necessary  
For further information call 01384 213395  
Open House Day!!

**Saturday 28th August  
2017  
10am - 12 Noon**

We are delighted to offer for sale this second (top) floor two bedroom apartment in this sought after and convenient cul-de-sac location within easy reach of local amenities, schools and public transport links to Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

The impressive, spacious accommodation is well presented and comprises ample living space and well-appointed bedrooms. This property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking on a private car park with visitors spaces. This immaculately presented apartment has a hallway leading to two bedrooms, fitted bathroom/WC and living room/fitted kitchen with dining area. The property must be viewed

**£99,950**

**DUDLEY  
Acacia Close**

**S.S.T.C.**



We are pleased to offer this modern two-bedroom semi-detached property, situated in a cul-de-sac location. With double glazing and central heating, the hallway leads to a fitted kitchen and pleasant lounge to the rear. On the first floor there are two double bedrooms, house bathroom/WC and shower over the bath. The property has off road parking to the front and a private rear garden with patio & side access to the front. NO UPWARD CHAIN, ideal for first time buyers. Viewing is highly

**£105,000**

**Tividale  
Hollies Road**

**S.S.T.C.**



We are pleased to offer this traditional three bedroom semi detached home in a popular location. With a drive to the front with dropped kerb, this property offers two reception rooms and kitchen on the ground floor, on the first floor there are three good-sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. With central heating and double glazing. Pleasant rear garden with outbuildings including WC. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Ideal for first time buyers or investors. MUST BE VIEWED: EPC TBC.

**£126,500**

**HALESOWEN  
Chiltern Close**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**



A three bed family home in a popular cul-de-sac location, with double glazing and central heating, off road parking to the front, low maintenance patio/astro turf garden to rear. Having a spacious hallway with stairs to the first floor, good-sized lounge, open plan fitted kitchen/diner, on the first floor there are three bedrooms, two doubles and one single, with a house bathroom having a bath, separate shower and WC. Beautifully finished, ideal family home - viewing highly recommended. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC C

**£212,000**

**DUDLEY  
Dando Road**

**REDUCED**



We are pleased to offer this two bedroom terraced home. The property has a lounge and dining room, fitted kitchen, with stairs leading to the first floor from the lounge downstairs WC. The first floor landing has doors off leading to two good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom with separate WC. Having central heating and double glazing. There is a courtyard to the rear of the property. This spacious property is ideal as an investment property or for a first time buyer. MUST BE VIEWED: EPC D

**£90,000**

**Dudley  
Heathcliff Road**

**S.S.T.C.**



We are pleased to offer this traditional two bedroom mid-terraced home in a popular area. Property is fully double glazed and central heated. The property offers two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and conservatory. On the first floor there are two double bedrooms, House bathroom with shower over the bath. Pleasant rear garden with patio area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Ideal for first time buyers or investors. MUST BE VIEWED: EPC D

**£105,000**

**Dudley  
Oakham Road**

**REDUCED**



A great opportunity to purchase an outstanding Three Bedroom Detached house on one of the area's most sought after and desirable roads. This impressive property offers very well maintained accommodation having some fine features and briefly comprising: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, superb Through Lounge/Dining Area with bay windows to the front and rear, fine Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, spacious Landing, Three good-sized bedrooms, refitted Bathroom, adjoining Garaging and in our opinion delightful, excellent sized Gardens. An early viewing is essential to appreciate this wonderful family home.

**£334,950**

**DUDLEY  
Occupation Street**

**SSTC IN ONE WEEK**



A two bed mid terraced house in need of some finishing, with lounge to front, extended dining kitchen to rear, two double bedrooms upstairs with house bathroom/WC and shower over the bath. Garden to rear, paved area to front, double glazing and central heating, ideal investment opportunity. No upward chain, EPC D

**£79,950**

**Dudley  
King Edmunds Street, St James**

**REDUCED**



We are pleased to offer this splendid, three bedroom detached, double fronted family home in a pleasant location with views to front and side. Outside there is a driveway for up to three cars and a good-sized garage to the side. Inside, the property offers an airy, light dining kitchen and lounge with windows on two sides, a downstairs WC and under-stairs storage. On the first floor there are three good sized double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC. The Master bedroom also has an en-suite shower/WC. The private garden to the rear has a patio area and lawn with access to the side gate leading to the drive. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE APPRECIATED. EPC C

**£227,950**

**Lower Gornal  
Lake Street**

**NEW**



Not your average two-bedroom house! Must be viewed! We are pleased to offer this stunning two bedroom family-sized house in a popular area of Lower Gornal. Recently refurbished to an exceptionally high standard, this is a truly immaculate semi-detached home. The property offers period features throughout with high ceilings, fireplace, picture rails and spacious rooms. Downstairs there are two large reception rooms and a kitchen/diner plus cellar. On the first floor there are two double bedrooms, of which the master is particularly generous in size. The family bathroom is a decadent room with roll-top bath, separate corner shower and WC. There is also potential to extend into the loft, subject to planning permission. The private stepped rear garden has a lawn area and multiple patio areas. Located near good schools and within walking distance of amenities in Gornal Wood village, this property has much to offer. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE PROPERLY APPRECIATED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E

**£124,950**

**Dudley  
Poplar Green**

**S.S.T.C.**



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home with double glazing and central heating. Off road parking to the front, patio and garden to the rear. Internally there is a lounge, dining kitchen (with access to the lounge), utility room and downstairs WC. Upstairs has three good sized bedrooms and house bathroom/WC. In need of a sympathetic renovation, ideal for first time buyers or investors. NO UPWARD CHAIN, FREEHOLD, VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC TBC

**£108,000**

**DUDLEY  
Manderston Close**

**NEW**



A spacious ground floor apartment with double glazing and central heating, with off road allocated parking to the rear and garage. Internally the property has a spacious lounge, with breakfast kitchen off. There are two good sized bedrooms (one single, one double) with a storage cupboard, and bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Communal gardens to the front, with great view! No upward chain, ideal for first time buyers or investors. Viewing highly recommended.

**£108,000**

**Bilston  
Bow Street**

**NEW PRICE**



We are pleased to offer this modern two bedroom semi-detached home. Within 5 Minutes walking distance of Bilston town centre, with good transport links to Wolverhampton and beyond. Off road parking to the front of the property with side access to the rear, the property offers a good sized lounge leading to a modern fitted kitchen/diner and with stairs to the first floor landing. Upstairs has two double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. To the rear there is a small patio area with lawn and garden and double gates for further off road parking. MUST BE VIEWED! NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC-D

**£110,000**

**DUDLEY  
Queens Hall, St James Road**

**NEW PRICE**



MUST BE VIEWED. A Delightful and modern one bedroom ground floor apartment situated on the popular Queens Hall development, Dudley. Comprising Of: Spacious open plan kitchen/lounge/diner, bathroom with shower, gated off road parking, secure entry system and walking distance to Dudley town. This is an ideal investment opportunity. The property is currently tenanted on a rolling month basis and is achieving £450pcm. EPC - D.

**Offers In Excess Of £69,950**

**Dudley  
The Parade**

**NEW**



- a stunning three bed property overlooking parkland in Central Dudley
- modern, airy decor throughout
- enclosed, private garden to rear
- off road parking to the front
- large through lounge
- spacious open plan dining area with fitted kitchen off
- utility room with downstairs WC
- three good sized bedrooms (orthopedic super king sized water bed available to purchase)
- house bathroom with bath, WC and separate shower with 'thronestool' mixer shower

**£199,995**

**DUDLEY  
Bennetts Hill**

**NEW**



- a surprisingly spacious end terraced traditional home
- Having high ceilings throughout
- kitchen, diner with separate lounge
- two good sized double bedrooms
- useful cellar and boarded loft with large upstairs landing
- 'sun trap' rear garden with patio area and access to alleyway
- no upward chain
- viewing recommended

**£99,950**

**Dudley  
Parkes Hall Road**

**REDUCED**



A modern three bedroom mid terraced townhouse on a development of just 10 houses. Offering lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, on the ground floor, master bedroom with en-suite and fitted wardrobe, two further bedrooms and family bathroom on the first and second floors. Having double glazing and central heating, with allocated parking to the rear for two vehicles, garden to rear. No upward chain, EPC B- Property marketed with show home photos

**£139,950**

**TIVIDALE  
Aston Road**

**NEW**



This two bedroom semi detached home is being offered for sale as an investment opportunity to Landlords or new investors. This property is currently rented and if offered for sale with the current sitting tenant. The property is currently achieving £475 Per calendar month. Benefitting from fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Having off road parking to the fore and rear garden. Being an investment opportunity there will be No Upward Chain.

**£114,995**

**DUDLEY  
Poplar Green**

**SSTC IN ONE WEEK**



We are pleased to offer this three-bedroom semi-detached family home with double glazing and central heating. It has a garden to the front with a path leading to the front door, internally the property offers a good sized lounge with a glazed door leading to the dining room, with a fitted kitchen off. There is a utility room off the kitchen with access to both the front and the rear of the property with plenty of storage, and a downstairs WC. On the first floor, the landing leads to three bedrooms (two doubles, one single) and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. MUST BE VIEWED: VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC D! NO UPWARD CHAIN

**£109,950**

**Bilston  
Hazel Grove**

**NEW INSTRUCTION**



We are pleased to offer this two bedroom semi-detached family home. The property is situated in a cul-de-sac location within walking distance of Bilston town centre. The property offers Lounge, fitted kitchen with down stairs WC and utility room. On the first floor you have two good sized bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. The good sized rear garden offers patio and lawn area. The property has off road parking to the front. Double Glazed, central heating. MUST BE VIEWED. Ideal for first time buyers. EPC D

**£107,950**





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wednesfield@skitts.net 01902 732324  
westbromwich@skitts.net 0121 530 4240  
wolverhampton@skitts.net 01902 788188

**Sandyfields  
Road, Sedgley**

**£287,000**

	2		3
	1	EPC	E



**Ruskin Avenue,  
The Straits**

**£250,000**

	1		3
	1	EPC	D



**Roper Way,  
Woodsetton**

**£235,000**

	2		3
	2	EPC	D



**Larkwood  
Drive, Sedgley**

**OIEO £225,000**

	2		4
	1	EPC	E



**Eversley Grove,  
Northway**

**£205,000**

	2		3
	1	EPC	TBC



**Stone Mill Walk,  
Upper Gornal**

**OIEO £180,000**

	1		3
	2	EPC	B



**Highland Road,  
Cradley Heath**

**£170,000**

	2		3
	1	EPC	TBC



**Hurst Road,  
Coseley**

**£129,950**

	2		3
	1	EPC	TBC



**School Street,  
Sedgely**

**£129,950**

	2		2
	1	EPC	E



**Old End Lane,  
Coseley**

**OIEO £127,000**

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



**Lake Street,  
Lower Gornal**

**£124,950**

	3		2
	1	EPC	TBC



**Park Road,  
Lower Gornal**

**OIEO £110,000**

	1		1
	1	EPC	TBC



**Cedar Avenue,  
Bramford Estate**

**Auction Guide Price £115,000**

	2		3
	1	EPC	C



**Redhall Road,  
Lower Gornal**

**Auction Guide Price £80,000**

	1		2
	1	EPC	C



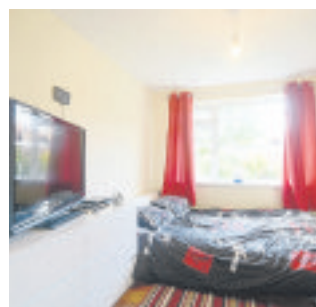
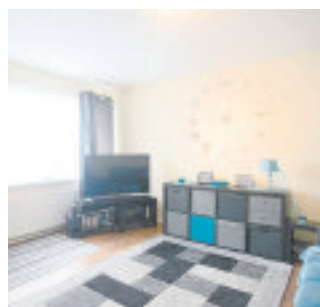
**Cradley Road,  
Dudley**

**Auction Guide Price £100,000**

	1		2
	1	EPC	F







## Charming flat is available to rent

DUDLEY  
£450 PCM

<<<

This charming one-bedroomed flat in Sandstone Close, Dudley, is available to rent through [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) at £450 pcm.

It is for single, non-smoking tenants only, with no pets

A particularly pleasant first floor flat, it lies in a desirable location local to amenities including shops, schools and public transport services.

This property is well presented and must be seen to be appreciated, said a spokesman for the selling agent, [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com).

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a large living room, a bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. The property further benefits of having double glazed windows and gas central heating. An offer applies to month one.

Call [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) on 0800 862 0870.



## Outstanding home sits on a generous plot

WOMBOURNE  
£525,000

This outstanding and substantial modern detached family home in Millfields Way, Wombourne, is for sale through Taylors at £525,000.

Its four reception rooms include the impressive large lounge, a separate dining room, a second sitting room, a large home office, two guest cloakroom/WCs with potential for the creation of ground floor living if required for elderly relative etc.

There is also a huge living/family/dining kitchen with appliances, a separate utility/laundry, gallery landing, five double bedrooms, a bathroom plus a further shower room.

To book a viewing, contact Taylors on 01384 401777.

**SDL AUCTIONS**  
BIGWOOD

**6TH SEPTEMBER**  
Aston Villa Football Ground  
Starting at 10:30am

**AUCTION**

**150 LOTS**

To include properties on behalf of:  
Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators



**41 Chatsworth Road, Halesowen**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £140,000+ (plus fees)



**72 Wheatley Road, Oldbury**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**'Rylands', Smithy Lane, Pensnett**  
2 Bed Detached Bungalow  
Guide: £110,000-£115,000 (plus fees)



**6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)



**12 St Peters Close, Tipton**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)



**17 Maybank Road, Netherton**  
2 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £59,000+ (plus fees)



**71 Castle Road, Tipton**  
3 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**31 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich**  
2 Bed End Terraced House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**4 Wednesbury Oak Road, Tipton**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**40 Hayes Street, West Bromwich**  
2 Bed Mid Terraced House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

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**6TH SEPTEMBER**

 Aston Villa Football Ground  
 Starting at 10.30am

**AUCTION**

View: 25/8 @ 13.15; 26/8 @ 10.30; 30/8 @ 11.30; 1/9 @ 13.15

**12 St Peters Close,  
Tipton**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a blocked paved driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, side lean-to with store and WC on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms, shower room and separate WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens and driveway parking.

**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**


View: 25/8 @ 10.45; 26/8 @ 12.15; 30/8 @ 14.00; 1/9 @ 10.45

**16 Overdale Road,  
Quinton**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden.

**Accommodation:** Porch, hall, through reception room, kitchen, side verandah and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms and en-suite shower room/WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens and driveway parking.

**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**


View: 25/8 @ 14.30; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.30; 2/9 @ 14.15

**133 Ashley Street,  
Bilston**

A 3 bedroom newly built end terraced property, standing back from the road behind a paved foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Storm porch, two reception rooms, kitchen, lobby and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms on the first floor.

**Outside:** Paved garden.

**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**


View: 25/8 @ 15.30; 30/8 @ 10.00; 1/9 @ 15.30; 2/9 @ 15.00

**'Normean',  
4 Wednesbury Oak  
Road, Tipton**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a blocked paved driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Porch, hall, two reception rooms and kitchen on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms, shower room/WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens and driveway.

**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**


View: 25/8 @ 14.45; 30/8 @ 10.00; 1/9 @ 14.45; 2/9 @ 16.30

**17 Kiniths Way,  
West Bromwich**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Porch hall, two reception rooms, kitchen utility room and WC on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens, rear garage and driveway parking.

**Guide: £59,000-£64,000 (plus fees)**


View: 25/8 @ 12.30; 26/8 @ 9.45; 30/8 @ 12.15; 1/9 @ 12.30

**71 Castle Road,  
Tipton**

A 3 bedroom detached dormer bungalow, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and partial double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens and driveway parking.

**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

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View: 25/8 @ 13.00; 30/8 @ 12.30; 1/9 @ 13.00; 2/9 @ 12.45



**35 Norbury Crescent, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 13.45; 30/8 @ 11.45; 1/9 @ 13.45; 2/9 @ 13.30



**90 George Street, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 14.00; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.00; 2/9 @ 15.45



**6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich**  
3 bed semi detached house with majority double glazing, in need of improvements  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 11.30; 26/8 @ 11.30; 30/8 @ 13.15; 1/9 @ 11.30



**81 Northfield Road, Harborne**  
2 bed mid terraced house with gardens, in need of modernisation  
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 10.00; 30/8 @ 15.30; 1/9 @ 10.00; 2/9 @ 9.45



**47 East Croft Road, Warstones, Penn**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and partial double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 14.30; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.30; 2/9 @ 14.15



**131 Ashley Street, Bilston**  
3 bed newly built mid terraced house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 12.15; 30/8 @ 13.15; 1/9 @ 12.15; 2/9 @ 12.00



**2 Willcock Road, Wolverhampton**  
4 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 11.30; 30/8 @ 14.00; 1/9 @ 11.30; 2/9 @ 11.15



**224 Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton**  
2 bed end terraced house with central heating, in need of modernisation  
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 10.45; 30/8 @ 14.45; 1/9 @ 10.45; 2/9 @ 10.30



**76 Norfolk Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed mid terraced house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)**



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## AUCTION

### 10th OCTOBER 2017

*Entries to date include:*

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### Apartments offer an investment opportunity

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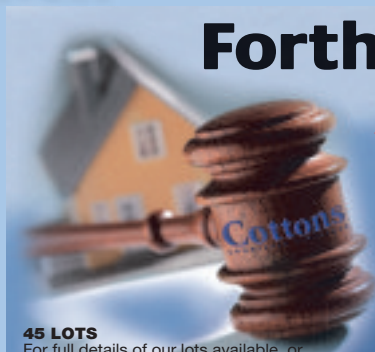
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**DUDLEY, Hillmeads Drive, Oakham**

A wonderfully presented DETACHED property situated in the extremely popular OAKHAM area of Dudley. This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boasts a spacious entrance hall, well-appointed living room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, study, guest W/C, utility, FOUR BEDROOMS, ensuite to master, family bathroom, fantastic enclosed rear garden, double garage with driveway to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL to fully appreciate this OUTSTANDING home. EPC C SEDGLEY



**SEDGLEY, Chevening Close (Off Richmond Road)**

FIRST QUALITY detached family home with FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS within walking distance of Bull Ring. Presented in exemplary order throughout an extended, gas centrally heated, double glazed family home comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen (with various appliances), pantry, utility room, cloakroom. Four double bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, extensive driveway, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



**WALL HEATH, Summerfield Avenue**

Enjoying a LONG DRIVEWAY approach to CARPORT and GARAGE, this SUBSTANTIAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is further complemented by BEAUTIFULLY ESTABLISHED and GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN, providing EXTENDED accommodation, including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. EPC E

Offers in the region of **£329,950**

Offers in the region of **£265,000**

No upward chain

**£235,000**



**KINGSWINFORD, Eaton Place**

Enjoying a sought after cul-de-sac position with superb elevated views, this INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a GENEROUS and FLEXIBLE layout which includes THREE/ FOUR BEDROOMS. With BROAD BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, DETACHED GARAGE and a SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. EPC D



**WORDSLEY, Chapel Street**

AN OUTSTANDING TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW with a VERY LARGE DRIVEWAY and a beautifully landscaped private rear garden, offering a EXPENSIVELY REFITTED, and GENEROUS layout of ready to move into accommodation. EPC D



**SEDGLEY, Northway**

Imposing, spacious, conscientiously maintained. Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow upon generous corner plot within walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities comprising; porch, hall, kitchen, 18'3" living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with units), reappointed bathroom, conservatory, secluded rear garden, garage, driveway. EPC: D SEDGLEY



**SEDGLEY, Alderdale Avenue, Northway**

EXEMPLARY ORDER THROUGHOUT! Enlarged, gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached in favoured district. Presented in stunning order throughout comprising; hall, good sized kitchen, transverse/L shape living/dining room with 'Minster'/gothic feature fireplace, CONSERVATORY. Three bedrooms (all with fitted units), bathroom. Garage, block paved drive, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



**DUDLEY, Fairview Road**

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING! Sympathetically restored/upgraded detached Edwardian residence on corner plot convenient for Milking Bank & presented in exemplary order throughout the gas centrally heated, double glazed accommodation provides; hall, store, lounge, separate dining room, CONSERVATORY, kitchen, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Well stocked garden with parking to gable and FURTHER POTENTIAL PARKING from Dildale Road. Many fine period features. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

No upward chain **£235,000**

**£229,950**

Offers in the region of **£195,000**

Offers in the region of **£194,950**

Offers in the region of **£185,000**



**WORDSLEY, Windsor Grove**

With a BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT SUNNY REAR GARDEN, this VERY IMPRESSIVE SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys a much sought after cul-de-sac position, having been SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED to the rear including a CONSERVATORY and THREE BEDROOMS. EPC E

**£184,950**



**LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood**

Beautifully presented and well maintained traditional semi-detached property located in the sought after area of LOWER GORNAL in Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this family home also boasts porch, hallway, living room, open-plan kitchen-diner, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, stunning enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£179,950**



**COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill**

EXTENDED - APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS! Gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached 'cottage' of character that has been transformed, enlarged & improved enviably situated with panoramic distant views comprising; sitting room, lounge with multi fuel stove, tremendous extended breakfast kitchen (with lofty ceiling heights) double French doors out to the garden and a fine range of units, shower room. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Off road parking, garden. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£170,000**



**LOWER GORNAL, Thornleigh**

Fantastically presented and benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing, this semi-detached property is located in the extremely popular area of Lower Gornal. As well as being EXTENDED this superb family home also boasts; good-sized entrance hall/ sitting area, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, guest W/C, well-appointed lounge-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, shower room, enclosed rear garden, and driveway for multiple cars to front. Viewing essential. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£169,950**



**DUDLEY, Attingham Drive**

A superbly presented modern intermediate situated on the popular ATTINGHAM DRIVE development in Dudley. Ideal for first time buyers or families, this THREE BEDROOM benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boasts entrance hall, well-appointed living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, attractive bathroom, enclosed rear garden and parking. Viewing essential! EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£149,950**



**WORDSLEY, Ensall Drive**

An INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE MODERN MEWS HOUSE which enjoys a sought after cul-de-sac position, close to shops and amenities, with a BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED SUNNY/ PRIVATE REAR GARDEN and CAR PARKING. Offering a WELL APPOINTED & SPACIOUS which includes TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS. EPC C

No upward chain **£142,500**



**WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road**

A REMARKABLY SPACIOUS recently redecorated and re-carpeted VACANT UPVC double glazed semi detached most conveniently situated in popular district. Comprising entrance vestibule, reception hall, store, breakfast kitchen, living/dining room (with patio doors out to garden), two generous bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with white fitted suite, block paved driveway to the large integral garage. Rear garden. EPC Rating E SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£125,000**



**SEDGLEY, Kings Road**

Conveniently situated within walking distance of Sedgley Centre, this traditional terraced property has huge potential. Benefiting from entrance porch and hallway, this THREE BEDROOM also has living room, dining room, kitchen, guest W/C, bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating, front and rear gardens and is being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£114,950**



**DUDLEY, Ivy Road**

Situated in a popular area of Dudley this intermediate property is an ideal first time buyer or investment opportunity. Benefiting from porch and entrance hall, it also comprises of living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY.

PRICE: **£109,950**



**COSELEY, Evergreen Close, Hurst Hill**

Fantastic flat alternative! Yet with all the advantages of a flat (no garden - low maintenance) located in quiet backwater most conveniently situated for day-to-day amenities, RAILWAY STATION and with swift completion available. Accommodation includes entrance porch, store, hallway, kitchen, living/dining room, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom. Two car parking. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£97,400**

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# Renault's city slicker 'captures' market

By John Griffiths

**Renault's 'baby bear' – the smallest in its family of three SUV-styled cars – has won many fans as the biggest seller in its class in Europe.**

But with ever-increasing competition no car maker can rest on its laurels so the French company has introduced a raft of changes to the Captur: new styling, and some of the latest safety and connectivity technology with losing any of its practicality and user-friendly nature.

One of its more obvious attractions is the fact that its very closely related, particularly the interior and power trains to the company's successful Clio hatchback. But as a crossover, it sits higher on the road, meaning extra ground clearance, ease of access and better visibility: just the things which have made SUVs the fastest growing sector of the new car market.

It is also longer and has a wider track than the Clio, meaning extra room inside and on-road stability to counteract its extra height.

Prices start from £15,165, rising to £23,405 for the new, lavishly-equipped flagship of the range.

The new Captur's engines are also designed to be more economical and, while they are not intended for serious off-roading, top models give drivers an opportunity to change driving modes for more tricky, winter conditions.

Buyers of high grade versions also have the opportunity of adding hands-free parking, an automatic to make life in the city a little easier.

If the existing models sales are an indication, the biggest sellers will be powered by Renault's 898cc, three cylinder petrol engine with 90Ps of power or a 1.2 litre 120Ps of power.

That shouldn't be a surprise for this city

slicker, as the smaller engine has been well-proven in a range of Renault and Dacia models. Control of the turbo means it isn't short of power – it performs more like a normally-aspirated 1.4 litre unit with the torque of a small diesel but is more economical under light load.

The Tce 90's official figures are 55.4mpg and 114g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, while the more powerful Tce 120's are 51.4mpg and 125g/km. The 0 to 62mph sprint times are 13.2 and 9.9 seconds respectively.

The 110Ps, 1.5 dCi turbo diesel is the latest, upgraded version of a familiar Renault engine with the potential to achieve better than 75mpg and a low 98g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Captur has a push-button 'eco' mode, plus stop/start and energy recovery systems to eke out precious fuel.

Given current fears about restrictions on diesels in some urban areas, and the extra cost, model for model, it's the option likely to appeal most to higher mileage drivers.

Having driven Tce 90 and diesel versions, both are quiet and refined power plants, with plenty of pep around town and on the open road. Handling and agility are hatchback-like, with a ride that's roll-free but on the firm side. The diesel is slightly smoother, probably because of its extra weight compared to the little three cylinder petrol unit.

Inside, the Captur is surprisingly roomy actually significantly more than the Clio, and is capable of seating five adults and with a flexible luggage space – from 377 to a class-leading 455 litres depending on where you position the sliding rear bench. Fild that down and you have an impressive 1,235 litres of room for your luggage.

As with the original Captur, zipped seat covers on higher grade models mean they



The Captur is a car which is young at heart, even if its drivers don't have to be

can be easily moved and machine washed.

The interior and instruments are largely shared with the Clio, including stylish but clear driver's instruments – particularly the big digital speedo – together with the central control screen on all but the entry level Expression models. Higher grade models also offer satellite navigation and the latest hands free connectivity systems and Android Auto apps.

The Captur scored a maximum five stars in safety tests, and comes with multiple airbags plus ABS and stability programmes, automatic lights and wipers, LED running

lights, tyre pressure warning and a cruise control/speed limiter. Eco mode, alloy wheels, fog lights, tinted windows and air conditioning are also standard.

At the top end, the new Signature S Nav model features leather upholstery, sports style aluminium pedals, a Bose premium stereo and the latest version of Renault's R-LINK multimedia system, with access to the car's own systems as well as smartphone apps. This model also gets a blind spot warning system and the hands-free parking system which are optional extras elsewhere in the range.

Styling, practicality and economy are three of the reasons why the Captur tops its class in terms of European sales. But there is another reason, too, and that's another feature which proved so successful for the Clio – the degree of personalisation available.

New body colours, the trendy two-tone option allow more than 30 different combinations, plus there are a number of both exterior and interior customisation packs.

Together with the new multimedia technology, the Captur is a car which is young at heart, even if its drivers don't have to be.

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### Fabulous Ford features

The Ford Focus has been named the most popular car in the UK for the second year running. The design gets minor visual tweaks, the option of 4WD and a new-door body style.

Ford has completed its SUV line-up with a larger model, the Edge, a car that takes the brand back into the luxury part of the segment.

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The design gets minor visual tweaks, the option of 4WD and a new-door body style.

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### Brindley Hyundai Aiming high with supermini

The new Hyundai Tucson is a car that takes the brand back into the luxury part of the segment.

'Cargo capacity has also been enhanced, making the vehicle one of the most accommodating in the segment.'

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# BMW 5 still a premium benchmark

By Darren Cassey

When the BMW 5 Series gets refreshed it's a pretty big deal. It has long been considered the benchmark for premium saloons and estates, but with new rivals such as Volvo trying to worm their way into a sector dominated by BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, it's no surprise that the 5 Series has been overhauled to stay ahead of the competition.

Aside from a slightly more slender appearance, the 5 Series looks very similar to its predecessor. However, under the skin there have been plenty of changes. For example, the chassis has been reworked using more lightweight materials, which contribute to an overall weight reduction of 100kg.

Meanwhile the notoriously smooth ride has been further optimised with a new suspension setup at the front and the rear.

Our 530d test car came with a 3.0-litre, six-cylinder diesel engine. It's an ideal powerplant for those who drive long distances, with excellent response and a surging, torquey power delivery. Resist the urge to put your foot down and you can easily achieve nearly 60mpg.

The 2.0-litre diesel is even more efficient, promising economy in excess of 60mpg and costing less to begin with. It doesn't have the same badge appeal as the 530d, but it has more than enough performance so you never feel like you're missing out.

A calm, relaxing drive has always been the 5 Series' key selling point, and BMW has exceeded its own high standard with the latest model. At motorway speeds it manages to smooth out the road so that even long drives are dispatched with zero stress.



**It's a big car and struggles to hide it**

What's arguably even more impressive is that this is not at the expense of great handling. The steering weight is perfectly judged and the 5 Series refrains from rolling around making it surprisingly fun to throw down a back road.

BMW's premium estate is a big car, and it struggles to hide it. The design is more slender than before, with the bodywork appearing to hug the frame more tightly. Particularly in the sportier trims, the addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance, though the standard car does look a tad plain.

The interior is fantastic and exactly what you'd expect from a premium estate, sitting further towards the luxury 7 Series than the more family focused 3 Series. A large central screen plays host to all the menus and satellite navigation functions, with many controls able to be used by waving your hands around.

The only complaint that can be levelled at the car is that the seats are quite



**The addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance**

uncomfortable, resulting in minor back ache over long distances. Be sure to try out different seats and driving positions before settling on one.

The 5 Series' specification is impressive across the board, with even models lower down the pecking order not giving the feeling you're being short changed – a few blanked off buttons the only hint that something is up.

The standard SE model still gets the widescreen on the dashboard, two-zone climate control and ambient lighting, which makes night driving really pleasant. Optional extras that are worth going for include adaptive cruise control, Driving Assistant Plus (which includes a range of advanced driving aids) and wireless mobile phone charging. It's difficult to find much to fault with the

BMW 5 Series. It was already at the top of the game and with a few choice revisions, such as a lighter chassis and upgraded suspension, there's no doubt it'll continue at the top of the sales charts.

Every mile behind the wheel reminds you why this is the premium saloon benchmark – sorry to BMW's rivals, but expect business as usual in the sales charts.



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Fuel economy figures for the 116d Sport 5-door Sports Hatch: Combined 72.4mpg CO2 emissions 103 g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions. Figures are obtained in a standardised test cycle. They are intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not be representative of what a user achieves under usual driving conditions.

Rybrook Limited is a credit broker not a lender.

Finance examples are for BMW Select agreements for the models shown above. Applies for new vehicles ordered between 1 July and 30 September 2017 and registered by 31 December 2017 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. \*On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Retailer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. \*\*Optional first payment and option to purchase fee not payable if you opt to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement (vehicle condition, excess mileage and other charges may be payable). Finance available subject to credit acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. 'BMW Select' is a form of hire purchase agreement provided by BMW Financial Services (GB) Limited, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0FB. You will have a 14 day statutory right to withdraw from the agreement. We commonly introduce customers to a selected panel of lenders including BMW Financial Services. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice.



# Smart, value-for-money supermini

By Sharon Walters

That's a bit smart, said my car enthusiast friend Gay, but what is it? I can't say I know the brand, she added before peering inside to add that she liked that as well.

It's a supermini, an MG, I replied. Really? she asked. You don't see many of those about do you?

Well it's about time we did and with MG's current expansion plans it shouldn't be too long before recognition becomes instant.

In the bad old good old days MG was a motoring force to be reckoned with but we all know what happened a few years ago. Then along came the Chinese who saved the brand and set about salvaging some sort of motoring industry at the Longbridge plant on the outskirts of Birmingham.

MG Motor UK, with strong financial backing from overseas, has now set about a major expansion of dealers throughout the UK and by the end of this year will have 90 in place.

There is a straightforward approach to franchising and low cost of set-up appeals to dealers that want to be part of a dynamic and successful organisation, to be listened to and to play a role in shaping the future direction of the franchise.

New car registration figures for MG have vastly increased almost and the brand expects to break 5,000 new car registrations at the end of the year, thanks to its MG3 and MG GS, as well as the launch of its all-new Compact SUV at the end of the year.

All vehicle design and engineering takes place at SAIC Motor UK Technical Centre (SMTU) in Birmingham, which employs 300 engineers and is co-located with the headquarters of MG Motor UK.

Alongside evolving the initial concepts for



There's plenty of space in the cabin

all new MG vehicles, the team also manages testing and innovation programmes.

This includes a global initiative to create new, environmentally-friendly powertrain technologies.

Now back to the supermini which attracted attention.

I thoroughly enjoyed a week behind the wheel. Value-for-money is excellent and although it could do with an interior refresh, it's pretty and a nippy little mover.

Plus there's a much lower insurance rating of Group 4E, less than half of many of its competitors. And that's good news for young drivers who face exorbitant premiums on other marques.

All models benefit from front LED daytime running lights and electronic hill hold as standard. Aside from the entry level model, all MG3s feature a high-quality DAB audio system.

The exterior style is sporty, with black A-pillars and 'wrap-around' windscreen, and



You can personalise your MG3

inside it one of the largest and most spacious cabins in the Supermini class.

You get six airbags, electronic stability control, corner brake control and traction control, all as standard.

Buyers can also design their own MG3 with a wide range of colours, exterior graphics, interior colour packs and part-leather upholstery created by the UK design team and inspired by the British fashion industry.

There are four models in the MG3 line up and a full range of options and accessories. At the top of the range is the MG3 3Style+, with premium 16" 'Diamond' alloy wheels and a sports body styling pack that includes a rear boot spoiler and side sill extensions.

Standard high-tech convenience features include cruise control, automatic lights and windscreen wipers and reverse parking sensors. In addition, the MG3 3Style+ now comes with leather seats as standard.

The mid-range MG3 3Form includes air conditioning, cruise control, DAB radio,



This five-door supermini is fun, sure-footed and a comfortable ride

Bluetooth and audio streaming, a leather MG-design steering wheel with red stitching and steering wheel audio controls all as standard, over and above the entry model specification.

For those who want top-of-the-range looks but find the high level of equipment in a 3Form is enough, then there is the MG3 3Form Sport. This includes all the features of the mid-range 3Form plus the sports body styling pack and 16" 'Carousel' alloy wheels. The entry model MG3 3Time features a CD player with MP3 compatibility and Aux-in facility.

All models are powered by a sporty 106PS petrol engine with a five-speed manual

gearbox and have the same great MG chassis designed to make driving the MG3 a bit more fun than your average small car.

The car will easily cope with tall people in its airy cabin and the front seats are exceptionally comfortable, especially for longer journeys. No wiggling about when caught in jams on motorways, I found.

This five-door supermini is fun, sure-footed, a comfortable ride on all types of road and a great all-rounder.

Prices start at £8,695, with the top-of-the-range model retailing at £11,695 – almost £5,000 cheaper than many competitors.

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MG GS Exclusive with metallic paint in Spiced Orange at £20,090 on the road (OTR) or from £234.38 a month based on a 60 month conditional sale agreement and MG3 3Style+ with metallic paint in Ruby Red with White Roof at £12,190.00 or from £162.53 a month based on a 60 month conditional sale agreement. †OTR price of £8,695 applies to the MG3 3Time with no optional extras and £15,095 applies to the MG GS Explore with no optional extras. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months "Vehicle Excise Duty". From prices exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packs. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply.

\*0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG3 and MG GS models until 30.09.2017. A minimum deposit of 20% of the cash OTR price applies on all MG3 models and 30% of the cash OTR price applies on all MG GS models. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

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# Repeat victory for the Volvo V40 in safe used car awards

By James Parker

The Volvo V40 with optional Driver Support Package has been named 'Safe Used Car' by Co-op Insurance for the second year in a row, as the award is relaunched for 2017.

Co-op Insurance created the inaugural Co-op Safe Used Car Award last year in partnership with vehicle safety experts Thatcham Research to demonstrate its commitment to campaigning for safer communities throughout the UK. The Volvo V40 with Driver Support Pack was the first car to be presented with the accolade, based on analysis of used family cars, all of which must have a five-star Euro NCAP safety score, CO2 emissions of 120g/km or lower and be freely available on the used car market for £15,000 or less.

Every V40 comes with Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) as standard, while the Driver Support Pack includes a range of advanced safety aids, including pedestrian and cyclist detection, adaptive cruise control and systems that warn you if you inadvertently start to leave your lane or if there's a vehicle in your blind spot.



## Autonomous Emergency Braking is standard

While the Volvo V40 with the Driver Support Pack remains a non-mover as the overall winner, the V40 without this suite of safety features is also in the top 10 list of safest used cars.

Thanks to an impressive number of standard safety features, including the world-first application of a pedestrian airbag, every V40 offers crucial protection for its occupants – as well as those outside – in an accident. However, where the car really comes into its own is with its collision-avoidance technology.

The V40 became the safest car ever tested by Euro NCAP when it was tested in 2012, with superb scores across the board – including an unprecedented 100% for safety assist.

Since then, the Volvo S90 and V90 have surpassed the best overall score of any model tested in 2016, making Euro NCAP's top-three best-ever-performing cars all Volvos.

James Hillon, director of product at Co-op Insurance, said: "We're pleased to announce that the Volvo V40 has topped the list as Co-op's Safest Used Family Car for a second year running, making it a safe choice for families looking to buy a second-hand vehicle.

"Volvos scored the highest in a series of track tests conducted by Thatcham Research and once again produced unprecedented results."

Bruce Greenwood, used car programme manager for Volvo Car UK, said: "To be presented with the Co-op Safe Used Car Award for the second year running – and to also have two cars in the top 10 – by one of the UK's largest insurance providers as well as experts in vehicle safety is a real testament to the Volvo V40.

"Even as standard, the V40 has class-leading safety features that focus on protecting the driver, passengers and pedestrians.

"Customers are recognising the benefits that come with buying a V40 through the Volvo Selekt Approved Used Car programme, because the scheme includes competitive prices, comprehensive warranty cover, roadside assistance and a full history check. Combined with the V40's outstanding safety and striking design, this has made the car an immensely popular second-hand buy since its introduction in 2012."



The Driver Support Pack includes a range of advanced safety aids

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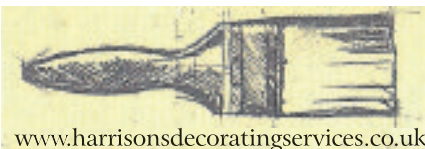
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Tel: **01384 829115**  
Freephone - **0800 953 0093**  
Mobile: **07913 355290**  
[www.greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk)  
Email: [sales@greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:sales@greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk)

## Plumbing & Heating

**DOMESTIC & GENERAL HEATING**  
always one step ahead...

**Get your like for like Combi boiler replaced with a Worcester Bosch boiler FROM £1,199**  
**Call NOW on 08000 786085**

- Finance options available from just £9.99 per month
- We will give you a fixed price to save £100's
- We give you a live phone quote
- No sales people will call you
- We give you upto 10 years warranty

**Cheekatrade**  
RATING OF 8.95

Authorised and Regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN668160

**Bilston Industrial Estate, Oxford Street, Wolverhampton WV14 7EG**  
[www.dgheating.org.uk](http://www.dgheating.org.uk)

## Plumbing & Heating

**STUARTS PLUMBING AND HEATING**  
Tel: **01384 326360** Mob: **07708 731610**  
[www.stuarts-plumbing.co.uk](http://www.stuarts-plumbing.co.uk)

- ✓ Central Heating & Boilers
- ✓ Power Flushing
- ✓ Boiler Servicing & Repairs
- ✓ Kitchens & Bathrooms
- ✓ All other aspects of plumbing work undertaken

Call for a **FREE no obligation quote** and for all other offers

**Vaillant** **WORCESTER** **safe**

## Plumbing

**NEED A PLUMBER OR JOBS DOING AROUND THE HOUSE?**  
Give Ian a call  
**I fit Bathrooms, Outside Taps, Flat Pack, etc**  
**Outside Taps Supplied & Fitted ONLY £55!**  
**FREE QUOTES**  
**07813 506025 • (01902) 276740**

## Roofing

**ROOFING SERVICES**  
*One of the Leading Roofing Companies*  
**No Job too Small, No Job too Big**

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

**SPECIAL OFFERS**  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.  
- Rubberised flat roofing  
- Flat roof specialist  
- Insurance work undertaken  
- Est 25 years  
- Discounted for OAPs  
- Exterior Painting  
**FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE**

**WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE**  
**SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing**

**Home: 01384 872276**  
**Mobile: 07584 081228**

## Tree Services

**WOLVERHAMPTON TREE SERVICE**  
Trees felled, hedges trimmed, stumps removed, tree reports. Fully insured.  
Arboricultural Association & Council Approved.  
**01902 892652**  
[www.wolvertrees.co.uk](http://www.wolvertrees.co.uk)  
E: [treebloke@aol.com](mailto:treebloke@aol.com)

## Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## funeral directors

**J.R. JONES**  
Lower Gornal 01902 880040

**DAINTY & DOWNING**  
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

**1 Family**

**consoles, games & accessories**  
ATARI 2600 14 GAMES two controllers including two Pac Man, some instruction books. £70.  
07717 338587.

**elderly & disabled**

**Capitol Mobility**  
Showroom in Bath St., Bilston  
**MOTABILITY DEALER**  
OVER 25YRS SALES / SERVICING IN WEST MIDLANDS.  
NEW / USED SCOOTERS, STAIRLIFTS, ADAPTIONS WHEELCHAIRS / MOBILITY AIDS.  
**01902 409929**  
[www.capitolmobility.co.uk](http://www.capitolmobility.co.uk)

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2 Leisure Time**

**bikes**  
LADYS GIANT CRS 21 speed bike, hybrid, ready to use, well maintained, £50. 01384 293056.

**camping equipment**  
DAXARA 107 trailer, with spare wheel, £85 ono.  
01384 293056.

**car boot sales**

**GIANT THURSDAY CAR BOOT SALE**  
This Thursday and every Thursday  
6am - 2pm at  
Mill Lane, Saredon WV10 7LJ  
Tel: **07831 192 116**

**COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET**  
OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY  
Open Bank Holiday Monday at Himley Bypass, B4176  
Ring Colin: 07973 904585  
[www.colscarboot.co.uk](http://www.colscarboot.co.uk)  
**www.colscarboot.co.uk**  
**OPEN ALL YEAR**

**caravans / motorhomes**  
A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW  
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?  
[www.bcpark.co.uk](http://www.bcpark.co.uk) 01584823433

**We Want Your Motorhome**  
Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid  
Please Call  
**AEG on 01384 848439 or Lee Jinks on 07740 895448**  
[www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk)

**CARAVAN FOR SALE** in North Wales, 11 1/2, month season, must go, 2018 fees paid. 07590 124226.

**HOLIDAY HOME**  
Two bedroomed  
Sited at Holt Fleet, near Ombersley, as new condition includes rent till April 2018.  
**Bargain**  
**£5,750 ono.**  
**01905 622289.**

**WILLERBY WICHESTER**  
38 x 12 x 2 BED  
Excellent condition. DG. central heating, outlook doors. on a beautiful Family run park in Mid Wales. Pet friendly.  
**£23,000**  
**01938 810990.**

**caravans wanted**  
LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

**NEW OR USED** caravan wanted urgently. Can be viewed the same day. Please call with details 01299 266415.

**WANTED MOTORHOME/CARAVAN**  
Any make, model, year or condition.  
Cash paid  
Private buyer.  
Please call with details **07376 393703.**

**music shop**  
RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA wanted & sold 50s-80s+ record shop wolves wvt 3nl 07780168972

**sports & leisure**  
**Free Ads**  
IT'S FREE. IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**holidays**  
**caravan sales**  
A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs, storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge, DY8 4HP 01384 390183  
[www.severnvalleyleisure.com](http://www.severnvalleyleisure.com)

**travel abroad**  
READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

**mind, body & soul**  
**massage**  
CHINESE MASSAGE traditional, 'Hot Stones'. 01902 903659. 07741 696099. Compton WV6 6AF

## what's on

## antique fairs

**ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR**  
Every month, Codsall Village Hall, Sunday 27th August 9am-3pm.  
Call Brian: 07923 538178.

**3 Home & Services**

## household appliances

**MODERN ARGOS** Fridge freezer, half and half. Grey. £85 ono.  
07521 411373.

**MODERN GAS** cooker, 500mm width, in white with smoked glass front, less than 18 months old. £95. 07521 411373.

## in your garden

**ALUMINIUM GREENHOUSE** 8 x 6, with staging, 2 water butts / stands. Will dismantle if necessary. £100 ono. 01902 887505. After 6pm

**DOUBLE BED 4FT 6**  
Divan base, luxury hand made 10 inch deep memory foam mattress, all unused.  
Cost over £800.  
**Accept £235.**  
**07787 636984.**

**THREE PIECE SUITE**  
Modern grey colour, 2 large comfy chairs, 2 seater settee, excellent quality, 18 months old, cost £1,800.  
Will sell for £750 ovno for quick sale.  
**01384 872955.**

## items for sale

## ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## items wanted

## A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
**01384 836219/07891 713547**  
[thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS**  
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone **01922 327897** or **07976 691563.**

## Frank Bosworth Furniture

## IN LIQUIDATION EVERYTHING MUST GO

**All Fashion Beds - Sleigh Beds, Metal, Iron and Ottoman Beds**  
**PLUS! UPTO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT** (SUBJECT TO STATUS)

Over 1000 Mattresses in stock whether its Budgets, Orthopaedic, Memory Foam or Pocket Sprung. We are your One Stop Bed Shop - We manufacture every conceivable mattress at the lowest factory direct prices - Cheap Junior Matts from £29.00 - Medium quality matts from £39.00 - Ortho and Memory Foam from £59.00 - Complete Divan Beds from £79.00 - Fashion & Bunk Beds in designer metal and wood. Ottoman Storage and Drawer Divans - You name it we have got it at the right price made to measure sizes and special requests a speciality. Factory Shop open 7 days major credit cards welcome

**LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER CHAIRS UPTO 70% OFF DISPLAY MODELS**  
EG GUNVOR RECLINER WINE WAS £999  
**NOW £299**

**SAVE UPTO 50% OFF ON-LINE PRICES**

**100'S OF LEATHER & FABRIC SOFAS, CORNER SUITES AND RECLINER SUITES - MANY HALF PRICE**  
**Open Everyday 10am-6pm OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM**

**BFC FACTORY OUTLET**  
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.  
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY  
**0121 557 6885**  
**INTEREST FREE CREDIT (T/C'S APPLY)**



## WANTED

ALL MILITARIA ITEMS FROM WARS WANTED BY COLLECTOR

Swords, medals, helmets etc, single or full items.  
German, Japanese, British.  
Will collect.  
Very good prices paid  
07511 500337.

## AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC  
ALSO  
GARAGE CLEARANCES  
Old Enamel Signs,  
Petrol Cans,  
Old Jugs,  
Bikes and Motorbikes.  
Anything old.  
\*\* TOP PRICES PAID \*\*

01384 836219/07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus any old Crash magazines wanted, also any old your Sinclair magazine wanted. 01902 892918.

## WANTED VINTAGE TAMIYA R/C MODELS

Also any old radio controlled models in any condition, Mardave, Kyochu, Traxxas, HPI Team Associated.  
Big or small collections bought.

07568 585075 or 0121 532 2544.

## loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

## IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

\*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:  
[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)



\*T&C's apply

## FreeAds

## t.v. / home entertainment

## service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

## specialists at your service

## aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75  
01902 858191 • 01384 429166  
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

**ALAN JONES** THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST! Est 1951 - 55 years at the top! Recommended by thousands. Genuine, honest, 100% reliable. We have watched them all come and go. Call: 01902 855985 ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST**  
CCTV cameras fitted/ty wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251  
**CLEAR VISION AERIALS** Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

## alarms/security

## PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

## appliance repairs

**A SAME DAY REPAIR** - Cookers, Aunts Fridges, Vacuums and Micros. Call 07955 611050 / 07801 746853.

## building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years exp  
All aspects of building work  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

## domestic cleaning

**CLEAN for you** (midlands ltd)  
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.  
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.  
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

## domestic repairs & services

**SAME DAY LOW COST REPAIRS.** Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

## drain clearance

**ALL DRAIN AND SEWER** Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

## driveways & patios

**CRETE BY DESIGN** Concrete Imprinting  
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING  
FREE QUOTES  
01902 489633 (day)  
or 01902 604187 (eve)

## electrical services

**A BARGAIN PRICED** house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.  
**ALL ELECTRICAL** work from a switch to a rewire. Insured. free quote 01902 575570 / 07958 627434.  
**ALL HOME ELECTRICS** NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

## fencing

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12 noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**ACE FENCING.** A better quality panel. Supply/fitt. Free quote: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723931

## gardening services

**1ST TREE AND TURF**  
All aspects of Landscaping, Tree Surgery, Block Paving, Fencing and Turfing.  
Call Gary on: 01902 443069 or 07742 430513

**A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE**  
Regular Garden and Grounds Maintenance. Fencing. Jungles cleared & restored. Garden tidy-ups. New lawns laid.  
FREE ESTIMATES  
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## gas fitting

## GAS SERVICES

• Boilers • Cookers  
• Fires • Gas Checks  
• Landlord Certificates  
• Gas Leaks Traced  
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired  
Same Day Service  
Free Quotes  
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs  
Call: 01902 366855/  
07761 973975

**A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED**  
Landlord certs. All areas covered. J&E Heating. Call John.  
01902 562664 / 07969 687832

**READERS ARE ADVISED** To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

## guttering

**PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**  
A\*1 GUTTERING  
cleaned, repaired, replaced, fascias/soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/repainting work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm  
01902 722447

## handyman services

**YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN**  
FREE QUOTES  
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!  
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047  
0121 6010479

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!



I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.  
Mr Causar.

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**LOCK & CARPENTRY** Plumbing. Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

## house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## painters / decorators

**CALL M & B DECORATORS**  
City & Guilds  
No job too small  
Free Quote  
01902 944555

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**  
Reliable & Friendly. Professional Female Painters & Decorators. Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
01384 285757 or 07812 484194  
www.love2-wallpaper.co.uk

**C J PAINTING & DECORATING**  
Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

## pest control

**WASP NESTS DESTROYED** £50. Bed bugs, all insect pests. Telephone John on 01902 743458.

## plans prepared

**ADAM DESIGN.** Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

**BUILDING PLANS:** Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

## plastering

**AAA OVEN CLEANING.** Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

**AT PLASTERING & RENDERING**  
FREE quotes & all work guaranteed.  
**07526 593701**

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING**  
Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897  
**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## plumbing & heating

**CENTRA HEAT**  
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate. Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs  
**£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler**  
Installed in September T&C apply  
**01902 845211**

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!



"We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us."

Martin - Centra Heat

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating**  
Full heating systems £2200  
Boiler Changes £1100  
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.  
For Free Quotes Call:  
01902 403823 07811 855231

## plumbers

**G M PLUMBING SERVICES** Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers, Blockages 07976 012458

## removals

## KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.  
Please call:  
07966 281957

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07717 727119**

**A CHEAPER REMOVAL**  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVAL. FULLY INSURED. 7 days.  
**01902 89 49 16**  
**07807 77 30 35**

**A2B REMOVALS** Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

**A2B REMOVALS** Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 630870 / 01384 940260.

## roofing

**25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING**  
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!  
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.  
**BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED**  
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**WH ROOFING CONTRACTORS**  
A backed bargain, slate, tile, flat, lead work, fascias and gutterwork, Free Quotes  
Call: 01902 561434 or 07792 817062  
E:whroofingcontractor@gmail.com

**The Complete Roofing Specialist**  
Flat Roofs, Tiled Roofs, Fascias, Soffits & Guttering  
WE GUARANTEE NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR QUALITY!  
www.firstdirectionroofing.co.uk  
**0800 024 6151**

## skip hire

**AT M&M SKIPS**  
Fast, friendly service  
All areas covered  
All sizes  
Same day service  
Freephone  
**0800 619 0189 / 07904 915016**

**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**  
Save ££££  
All size skips and all areas covered  
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!  
Open 7 days a week  
**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56**

**CASTLE SKIP HIRE**  
Mini, Midi and Large Skips.  
GRAB HIRE  
01384 237577  
01902 405745  
07719 187845

**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!**  
No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years. 01384 232359.

**STONES SKIP HIRE**  
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875  
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

## tiling

**BOBS HOME INTERIORS**  
Wall and floor Tiling  
Bathrooms Fitted  
FREE ESTIMATES  
bob2granger@gmail.com  
**07480 141537**  
www.bobshomeinteriors.co.uk

## upholstery

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**UPHOLSTERY SERVICES** 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antique es. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.  
**UPHOLSTERY SERVICES** 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antique es. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

## 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**ANIMAL CONCERN** have friendly rabbits needing new homes all ages. 0902 333805.

**GORGEOUS LITTER** of KC applied for Cocker Spaniel Puppies. Ready Sept 10. Home reared with children in a loving environment. £750. For details call 07902 451232.

## GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.  
Call 01902 291080 or visit  
[www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk](http://www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk)  
@gtwolverhampton



## ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE

1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1LN.  
01922 627013.  
Open Monday to Saturday  
11am - 5pm.  
Sundays - Bank Holidays  
11am - 4pm.  
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/ up to date with jabs.)  
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

**TEN WEEK OLD** Baby Ferrets, both Hobbs. £20 for both.  
01902 635484 / 07966 865535. After 6pm.

**WANTED** Pedigree Yorkshire Terrier. Bitch. 18 months to 2 years old. Call 01902 561880.

## SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

**01902 317878**



**ClassifiedAds**

## 5 Business & Farming

## business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## business directory

## accountants

**ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES** for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

## commercial premises

**UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE** to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

## 6 Property

## accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**APARTMENTS BRAND NEW** Large 2 bed. Bargain £495pcm Oldbury / Dudley 01384 230222

**BRIERLEY HILL.** Large one bed quality flat. Suit professional only. £435pcm. Deposit/Refs required (no pets or DSS) 07850 830361.

## FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD

Fully furnished, refurbished to high standard, with off road parking, would suit working gent, age 45+.  
£85pw including some bills.  
01902 304258.

**ONE BED FLAT** West Brom, near hospital, DG, shower room, electric heating, £375pcm. 07758 816458.

**SMALL FLAT** fully equipped, refurbished, suit mature male. £95pw + some services. 07711 5603357.

**SMART SINGLE ROOMS** in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

## flats for sale



## properties wanted

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**FAST 4 Your House CASH**

**You agree the price, we buy the house...**  
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**01384 500 500** 30 yrs

www.blackcountryhomes.co.uk \* subject to terms

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

## Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
 Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
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 www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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With solutions to suit ...  
 you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within  
**7 DAYS**

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 COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT  
 FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS  
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Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

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 Brought to you by Express & Star

**Let Me Buy Your House**

**YOUR PRICE, flexible terms**  
 Call/Text Mary on  
**07767 135 043**  
**01384 686 050**

**7**

**Jobs**

**building & construction**

**EXPERIENCED GANGER / GROUNDWORKERS** required for work in the Black Country. Work on own initiative. Full driving licence. No agency. Call 07903 801205

**drivers**

**DELIVERY DRIVER/WAREHOUSE PERSON** To drive 7.5 tonne vehicle, must have CPC & Digicard for a Dudley based potato merchant. Write to Mrs D Bradley 61 Tower Street, Dudley DY1 1NH.

**employment wanted**

**EXPERIENCED** Bricklayer requires employment. All types of brickwork. Contact 07341 021774.

**full time - general**

## TWO KITCHEN FITTERS PLUS ONE BATHROOM FITTER

*Required*

for a very reputable company based in Dudley.

You must be able to tile and complete fits to the highest standard.

Top rates of pay, continuous work all year round.

**CONTACT PAUL OR JAY**  
**ON 01384 232413**

**BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM**

## Electrician

39 hours per week (must be flexible in terms of hours worked)  
 - circa £28,000

The Black Country Living Museum is currently looking to recruit a qualified Electrician with a minimum of 5 years electrical installation or maintenance experience.

To view the full job profile and to apply for this role please visit  
 www.bclm.com or call 0121 521 5619 for an application form

**8**

## Motoring

**cars over £1500**

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



**FORD FIESTA**

2007, 57 reg, 64,000 miles, 5 door, service history, fresh MoT, electric windows, electric mirrors, superb condition.

£2,695.

01902 897680.

**MUST BE SEEN**  
**FORD FOCUS 1.8 DIESEL ZETEC**

07 plate, grey, 102,226 miles on clock, MoT.

£1,800 ono.

07977 498079.



**HONDA ACCORD SE i-VTEC 2.0 PETROL**

4-dr saloon, 2006 (56), 121k miles, long MoT, silver, alloys, sunroof, EW, EM. Good condition.

£1,850 ono

07792 680247.



**LAND ROVER FREELANDER**

2005, 103k, green, abs, e/w, a/b, e/m, a/c, alloys, stereo/CD, part leather interior, towbar unused, heated screens, very good condition.

£2,600 ono.

07731 700845.

**MUST BE SEEN**

**MERCEDES E240 ELEGANCE**  
 2002, excellent condition, 7 months MoT, 70,000 miles, service history, petrol and LPG (professionally fitted), cheap runner on LPG 57p per litre.  
 £1,595 ono.  
 07967 639378.

**PRESTIGE**

**MERCEDES E350 CDI SE AUTO COUPE**

2009, panoramic glass sunroof, comand sat nav, memory package, 17ins alloys, 6 disc CD/ DVD changer, 130k with FSH.

May PX for cheaper car.  
 £8,950 ono  
 07836 204450 /  
 deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

## CLASSIC CAR

**MGF SPORTS CAR**

1999, BRG, VVC engine, one previous owner, original car, leather seats, veneer dash, FSH, 44,000 miles only, MoT till April, non smokers car. First to see will buy. Insurance valuation at £4,000.  
 £1,750 ovno  
 01902 331557.



**MINI COOPER**

2004, 50,000 Genuine miles. Yellow. White Roof. Nine months MoT. Very Good Condition. New Exhaust.  
 £2,600 ono  
 07954 431228.



**MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE**

Registered 17.11.2009, Chilli pack, full leather, fsh, MoT, only 32k, excellent condition. Genuine reason for sale.  
 £5,500.

Telephone 01902 831297 or 07889 030875.



**PEUGEOT 308 SPORTIUM 1.6**

5 door. 2011 (11). Two owners from new. FSH (74,000 miles). Full MoT. Alloys. A/C. Immaculate throughout.  
 £2,995.  
 Telephone 07970 705466.



**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**

2011, 75,000 miles, 1149cc, air con, fsh, cruise control, Navigation System, half leather interior, very good condition, 11months MoT, 3 door.  
 £2,299. 07879 403302.

**EXCELLENT CONDITION**

**TOYOTA AGO**

61 reg, 5-dr, red, 40,000 miles, alloys, 10 months MoT.  
 £1,995  
 07851 213316.

## BARGAIN

**TOYOTA AYGO**

1.0 2008. Grey. 34,000 miles. FSH. MoT January. Central locking. Good condition.  
 £2,195.  
 01902 326839 / 07951 641948.



**VAUXHALL ASTRA**

2009, 42,900 miles, convertible, grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm, long MoT, full Vauxhall s/h.  
 £2,800 ono.  
 07940 198062.

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**SELL IT FAST**  
**SELL IT LOCAL**



**£48.50 PACKAGE INCLUDES**

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**1 WEEK ONLINE**

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**BMW 325i CONVERTIBLE**

2002, 72,000 miles, metallic silver, black hood, taxed, full MoT, full service history, leather heated seats, aircon, excellent condition, nice eye catcher.

£2,995 ono.

01902 123456.

**£31.00 PACKAGE INCLUDES**

**6 NIGHTS IN PRINT. 1 WEEK ONLINE**  
**AN INSERT INTO YOUR LOCAL CHRONICLES**  
**PLUS 6 NIGHTS FREE IF YOU DO NOT SELL!**

**SKODA FABIA 1.4 CLASSIC**  
 5dr hatchback, 2003, metallic blue, 45,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, excellent inside and out.  
 £1,595 ono.  
 01902 123456.

**£21.00 PACKAGE INCLUDES**

**PLUS 6 NIGHTS FREE IF YOU DO NOT SELL!**

**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS**  
 Sport, 06 plate, BRG, 55k, four months tax, 11 months MoT, CD, EW, FSH, £3,450. 01902 123456.

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\*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

**Tel: 01902 317878**

**ClassifiedAds**



# Classified Ads


**BARGAIN**

**VAUXHALL VECTRA**  
2006, silver,  
low mileage, 56,562.  
MoT till May 2018.  
Serviced every year.  
Very clean. Reason to sell,  
**£1,600.**  
**07980 435999.**



**VW POLO**  
2006, 1.2, 87000 Miles, FSH,  
MOT Until 03/18, One Previous  
Owner, Great Condition.  
**£1,750 ono**  
**01902 850622**

**cars under £1500**



**CITROEN XSARA X  
1.4 5DR HATCHBACK**  
Manual petrol, 1999, red, 12  
months MoT, new tyres, new  
exhaust, only 48,000 miles,  
very economical, remote  
central locking, good condition,  
lady owner.  
**£795 ono**  
**01562 67638 or 07756  
985242.**



**FORD FOCUS**  
2000, 105,000 Miles, State  
Blue, 1.6ltr Zetec, MOT till May  
2018, New Clutch June 2015,  
New Exhaust July 2017, Rear  
Parking Sensors  
**£450 ono**  
**07963021116**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**HONDA HRV**  
2001, 1600  
Nice clean car, 84,000 miles, 2  
owners, tow bar, MoT  
December.  
**£550 ono.**  
**01902 762591 or 07563  
055250.**



**RENAULT CLIO**  
2005, 5 door, 1200cc, 59,000  
miles, MoT, drives lovely.  
**£795**  
**07511 171667.**

**RENAULT CLIO  
AUTOMATIC 1400cc**

53 reg, five door, lady owner,  
nine months MoT, well main-  
tained, any trial welcome, silver,  
must be seen, clean car,  
**quick sale,**  
**£750.**  
**07962 392175.**



**RENAULT CLIO  
DYNAMIQUE DCI 100**  
3dr hatch diesel, 1.5cc, 03 reg,  
short MoT, 183k miles, 4 former  
keepers.  
**£425 ono.**  
**07521 411373.**

**RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9DCI**

Diesel, 2004, red, 5-dr, MoT  
end Oct, radio, CD player,  
reliable, good runner, first to  
see will buy.  
**Bargain £325 ono.**  
**01902 661391.**

**RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC  
AUTHENTIQUE**

05 reg, 1.4, petrol, blue, 40,000  
miles, MoT November, alloy  
wheels, front EW, EM, AC, 5  
former keepers, new clutch  
original radio / CD  
**£795 any reasonable offer will  
be accepted.**  
**07979 748455.**

**BARGAIN**

**ROVER 45 1600CC**  
2004,  
63,000 miles,  
factory alloys, alarm,  
MoT'd.  
**£395**  
**07526 001796.**

**BARGAIN**

**V W POLO**  
1.4  
02 reg.  
95,000 miles.  
12 months MoT.  
Good condition.  
**£500.**  
**01902 738247.**



**VAUXHALL ASTRA ESATE**  
Astra 1.3 CDTI estate. 2006.  
120,000 miles. 2 new tyres. 12  
month MOT. good condition &  
reliable  
**£900 ono**  
**07926515133**



**VW PASSAT SE 1.9TDI  
SALOON**  
4dr, automatic, diesel, 2003  
(53). 50mpg, blue metallic,  
MoT, new tyres, alloys, 2 x  
remot keys, 103,000 miles,  
SH, new cam belt, towbar,  
excellent condition.  
**£1,395.**  
**01562 67638 or 07756  
985242.**

**LOOK**

**VW POLO TWIST**  
2005, 1.4 petrol, 5dr, 9 months  
MoT, 110,000 miles, cam belt  
done.  
**£950.**  
**01902 630750.**

**classic cars**

**WANTED, CLASSIC Car.** Private  
cash buyer. Any condition, anything  
considered.  
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

**commercial  
vehicles**

**IVECO DAILY VAN**  
2004, MoT May 2018, white,  
very good condition  
**£1,500.**  
**07932 084639.**

**driving tuition**

**AMAZING OFFER** 5 lessons £40,  
10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there  
after. Call now 07958 051263.

**motorbikes**

**WANTED**  
Reliable Moped.  
Any condition.  
01384 235945.

**scrap vehicles**

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that  
it is an offence under the Scrap  
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy  
scrap cars/metal for cash.

**MCB**

**TOP PRICES PAID FOR  
ALL SCRAP CARS,  
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS**  
**Tel: 01902 408176**  
**1000's of parts**  
**available at all times**  
**MINMORE RD. WV1 2TZ**

**A BETTER PRICE**

for scrap or damaged cars and  
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**NINE LOCKS VEHICLE  
DISMANTLERS LTD**  
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or  
70553. Evenings 75397.  
**DY5 3JZ.**

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WANTED URGENT**

Scrap & MOT Failures Best  
Prices Paid ELV Registered  
Spares Always Available  
**0121 557 0800 or**  
**0121 557 0400.**  
**Oldbury Area.**

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price for your unwanted cars/vans.  
07903 549849, buyer will call.

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accessories**

**clutches / brakes /  
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CHANGE MOBILE**

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall  
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and MANY MORE!!  
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**Call Bob**  
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Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle  
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suit every budget.  
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little as  
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**Plus**  
6 nights free if you do not sell.  
**CALL**  
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**9  
Local  
Information**

**public & legal  
notices**

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For convenience you  
may fax any advertising  
requirements to  
**Marie Hogg on**  
**01902 713146**  
or email **marie.hogg@  
expressandstar.co.uk**  
(remember to include a  
name/contact number for  
confirmation of receipt)

**JOHN THOMAS ROGERS  
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any  
persons having a claim against or an interest  
in the Estate of the aforementioned  
deceased, late of 7 Stuart Crescent Dudley  
West Midlands DY2 7PJ, who died on  
19/06/2017, are required to send particulars  
thereof in writing to the undersigned  
Solicitors on or before 03/11/17, after which  
date the Estate will be distributed having  
regard only to claims and interests of which  
they have had notice.  
**WALDRONS**  
Capstan House The Waterfront  
Merry Hill DX5 1XL

**MARY ELIZABETH HORTON  
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons  
having a claim against or an interest in the  
Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late  
of 56 Hockley Lane Dudley West Midlands  
DY2 9JL, who died on 04/06/2017, are  
required to send particulars thereof in writing  
to the undersigned on or before 26/10/2017,  
after which date the Estate will be distributed  
having regard only to claims and interests of  
which they have had notice.  
**CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED**  
Aztac 650 Aztec West  
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD  
(Rel: AWO/4079406P/Horton)

**10  
Personals**

**personal**

**ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70**

and looking for some fun then call me,  
Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive  
and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
428381**

**HELLO, my name is Pia. I am a very**

petite, kind and respectful Asian girl,  
hoping to meet an older white man.  
I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her.  
**Text Only. Box: 4177099**  
**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but  
bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any  
area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906  
515 3019 Box: 413399**  
**JANE**, 52yrs genuine blue eyed  
blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for  
potential relationship. ACA/Text  
answered so please reply. **Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**  
**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated  
brunette seeks no strings must be  
pleasure with gent 40+. Must be  
discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel:  
0906 515 3003 Box 419673**  
**LINDA**, 48yrs, young looking blonde  
lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to  
meet new men friends, call and let's  
see what happens. **Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 428377**  
**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded  
seeks chap any age for discreet no  
strings fun, any age, no time wasters  
ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box:  
409715**

**Box Number P20916 ,**

**Express and Star,**  
**Queen Street,**  
**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**LOOK**

**LOOKING FOR VAL**  
Brian, please reply to this  
box number.  
'Val'  
**Box Number P20915 ,**  
**Express and Star,**  
**Queen Street,**  
**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**Express & Star**

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**YOU** can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:  
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**THE** biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you... visit...**

**Single Women**

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per  
minute plus your phone company's  
access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per  
message received.

**CARING**, young at heart lady seeks

tall caring gent with GSOH for  
friendship, outings and car drives.  
**Text only replies. Mailbox:  
6042252**

**SASKA**, kind hearted Asian lady,

single and still living with family so  
seeking very discreet relationship  
with strong minded man. I am 29yrs  
but like mature experienced men.  
**Text Only. Box: 4047094**

**SALLY** young 50, happy go lucky

blonde, looking to let her hair down  
with a happy, down to earth guy with  
dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 428269**

**MIA**, attractive married lady from

Birmingham are, looking to meet a  
discreet gent, any age, any area for  
fun times. I am 49yrs old but look  
younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

**PAM**, 40, cuddly feminine young

looking female, OHAC, financially  
secure, looking for fun times without  
complications with likeminded male.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
427753**

**TINA**, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure

with average looks. I want a similar  
man. GSOH looks unimportant. Age  
is but a number. I have no car but  
can accommodate. **Text Only. Box:  
4145368**

**SUE**, 47, attractive lonely brunette

who loves evenings in/out, music,  
WLTM someone sincere to love and  
get close to, why not give me a call?  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
427549**

**JANE**, new to area, hoping to meet

an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette  
with boyish leggy figure. N/S with  
GSOH. I've a good job and small  
flat which I own. **Text Only. Box:  
4099268**

**TERESA**, friendly lady with GSOH,

curvy build and attractive looks, 50  
something, seeking romantic male  
45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 428383**

**TRACY**, 68yrs, recently retired and

has time on her hands. Would love  
to meet a much much much younger  
chap for carefree times. **Text Only.  
Box: 4006039**

**ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70**

and looking for some fun then call me,  
Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive  
and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
428381**

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see what happens. **Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 428377**  
**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded  
seeks chap any age for discreet no  
strings fun, any age, no time wasters  
ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box:  
409715**

**CHRISTINE**, 60 something lady,

blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent  
and kind. Call me if you are interest-  
ed in meeting up. Looks unimpor-  
tant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 428155**  
**MIA**, attractive married lady from  
Birmingham are, looking to meet a  
discreet gent, any age, any area for  
fun times. I am 49yrs old but look  
younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

**I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall,**

short brownish hair. I am of medium  
build, outgoing, caring and WLTM  
similar male. **Text only replies.**  
**Mailbox: 6024848**

**TAMARA**, 44yrs, beautiful Indian

lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+. **Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
428147**

**Customer support**

Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm  
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**  
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and send to **80098** FREE Standard Network rates apply  
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but like mature experienced men.  
**Text Only. Box: 4047094**

**SALLY** young 50, happy go lucky

blonde, looking to let her hair down  
with a happy, down to earth guy with  
dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 428269**

**MIA**, attractive married lady from

Birmingham are, looking to meet a  
discreet gent, any age, any area for  
fun times. I am 49yrs old but look  
younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

**PAM**, 40, cuddly feminine young

looking female, OHAC, financially  
secure, looking for fun times without  
complications with likeminded male.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
427753**

**TINA**, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure

with average looks. I want a similar  
man. GSOH looks unimportant. Age  
is but a number. I have no car but  
can accommodate. **Text Only. Box:  
4145368**

**SUE**, 47, attractive lonely brunette

who loves evenings in/out, music,  
WLTM someone sincere to love and  
get close to, why not give me a call?  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
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**JANE**, new to area, hoping to meet

an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette  
with boyish leggy figure. N/S with  
GSOH. I've a good job and small  
flat which I own. **Text Only. Box:  
4099268**

**TERESA**, friendly lady with GSOH,

curvy build and attractive looks, 50  
something, seeking romantic male  
45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 428383**

**TRACY**, 68yrs, recently retired and

has time on her hands. Would love  
to meet a much much much younger  
chap for carefree times. **Text Only.  
Box: 4006039**

**ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70**

and looking for some fun then call me,  
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and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
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**HELLO, my name is Pia. I am a very**

petite, kind and respectful Asian girl,  
hoping to meet an older white man.  
I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her.  
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**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but  
bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any  
area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906  
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**JANE**, 52yrs genuine blue eyed  
blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for  
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answered so please reply. **Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**  
**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated  
brunette seeks no strings must be  
pleasure with gent 40+. Must be  
discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel:  
0906 515 3003 Box 419673**  
**LINDA**, 48yrs, young looking blonde  
lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to  
meet new men friends, call and let's  
see what happens. **Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 428377**  
**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded  
seeks chap any age for discreet no  
strings fun, any age, no time wasters  
ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box:  
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**CHRISTINE**, 60 something lady,

blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent  
and kind. Call me if you are interest-  
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tant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 428155**  
**MIA**, attractive married lady from  
Birmingham are, looking to meet a  
discreet gent, any age, any area for  
fun times. I am 49yrs old but look  
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**I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall,**

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# Wolves are bookies' favourites for league

WOLVES have now been placed as favourites for the Championship title by leading bookmakers after their perfect start to the season. The club have gone from 14-1 since May to 11-4 after their good start to the 2017/18 campaign.

They have already seen off Middlesbrough, Derby and Hull as well as a victory over Yeovil in the league cup. Even before their clash on Saturday, with Cardiff, with Wolves then in second place, but level on points, the Molineux men were touted as the most likely to win the league.

David Stevens, head Of PR at Coral, said: "The odds have tumbled on Wolves for the Championship. They were 14-1 when we first opened betting in late May, and down to 10-1 before the start of the season.

"Their odds since have gone down to 15-2 after their opening win, then 11-2 and they are now11-4 favourites after last night's victory. To put it into context, Aston Villa were 7-1 title favourites before the season began, but are now out to 14-1."

# Homegrown talent is priority for Pulis

TONY PULIS dreams of putting out an Albion team in the Premier League brimming with local talent from Birmingham and the Black Country.

The Baggies boss is impressed with the standard of players being nurtured in the academy and hopes that, in two years' time, those promising youngsters will be first-team regulars. Teenagers Sam Field and Rekeem Harper both played in midfield on the opening day of the season, while Jonathan Leko and Kane Wilson were named on the bench. If Pulis can follow up Gareth Barry's arrival with a few more additions before the window shuts, it may free up some of those youngsters to go out on loan.

The Baggies boss says regular men's football – the kind he can't afford to give them in the Premier League – is crucial for their development.

"The big thing about the football club is they've kept their young players in academy football for far, far too long," he said. "We've got to try and find four or five players to bring into this club to take it up to a level where we can cope without having the kids around us."

# Marathon for 20th time will be 'special'

THE 20th running of one of the region's biggest marathons promises to be a 'special' occasion, according to the event's top sponsor. The Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon has been a landmark event since the late 1990s. It is just a matter of days before people take to Wolverhampton's streets for the 20th time in succession on Sunday September 3.

Henry Carver was behind Carvers becoming the major sponsors and underwriters of the event which has run since 1998. Mr Carver, who won the business person of the year award in the Express & Star Business Awards this year, said: "It is special to be marking 20 years.

"We've had a huge amount of support from the people of Wolverhampton and I believe we're fundamentally a charitable city. The numbers this year are looking encouraging and it's going to be more of the same. We always get 2,000-plus and we always give £15,000 to £20,000 to charity."

There will be six events – including the marathon, half-marathon, 10km run, cycle route, walk through West Park and wheel and wheelchair events.



Joint managers, Danny Carter, left, and Andrew Carrier



The managers seen during a training session at Prestwood Road

# United for a new era with rising ambition

THE young management team have demanded their players' ambitions match their own as a new era begins at Wolverhampton United.

Danny Carter and Andrew Carrier are thinking big in their first post as joint bosses at the West Midlands League Division Two outfit.

It's been a long time since they've had much to shout about at their Prestwood Road home, which is in the Wednesfield area of the city.

It's 41 years since the current guise of United came to being, after Oxley and Whitmore Old Boys merged and joined the West Midlands League.

They have played in all three divisions of that pyramid, with four separate stints in the Premier Division until they were relegated for the last time back in 2003.

They went down to Division Two three years ago and finished eighth out of 14 teams last season, so improvement is much needed.

## Experience

Carter and Carrier have been friends for years and are used to Premier Division football, so will want to climb back to that level.

Carter was a popular player at Wednesfield while Carrier has previous coaching experience, serving at Willenhall Town and Wolverhampton Sporting Community.

Both are just starting out in management, aged 24 and 28 respectively, and are determined to succeed for both themselves and the club.

Carrier said: "I've mainly played in the Prem, but I've had a few injuries and I've been watching football since then and constantly trying to get involved.

"Me and Danny have been friends through football for a long time now, he's well known and respected in the game. He's been captain, as a player, at every club he's been at.

"He's been trying to get into jobs here and there

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Craig Birch

*The players are experienced enough to go out there and think to themselves 'no-one at this level is better than us. We can do it'.*

and, when this came up, he phoned me and asked if I'd be interested. I thought it would be great to work with him.

"We came in quite late, it was three weeks into pre-season so it was quite late really, but we quickly made a few phone calls to see what players we could get down. Danny has done really well to get those lads in, I've given him a helping hand with a few numbers and training has gone really well.

"I don't like to put this in a disrespectful way, but a few of them are probably coming towards the end of their careers although they still have plenty to offer to the game. They are all around Premier Division or Division One standard, some of them are the best in the league if you ask me.

"We've hit the ground running and me and Danny are not off the phone to each other every day and we talk, at length, about the squad after we've trained on a Thursday.

"We talked a bit more in depth after we've named the players, then we turn up on a Saturday and go over tactics, before we deliver it to the lads.

"We've set up a fine list, if you're late or don't have a shower or have dirty boots it will cost you.

"It's all for the players, though, it pays for their

group nights out down the line. It gets a bit of a banter going between the lads and they are all trying to get money out of each other. It's all about emptying their pockets!"

They have left to concentrate on their jobs, with owner John Lee and chairperson Hazel Keirle taking care of matters behind-the-scenes.

Recruitment has gathered pace despite the duo arriving relatively late in the summer, succeeding Liam Fieldhouse after Ben Astley quit at the end of last season.

Centre-half Tony Russon has been brought in and named captain while striker Darren Leonard, even at the age of 43, has vast experience at a higher level.

Midfielder Lee Onions has played in the Premier Division for Wednesfield while Daniel Benbow, Jamal Pinnock and Leon Pugh have all turned out at levels above.

## Promotion

Back-to-back home games have seen them begin the season unbeaten, with a 4-0 win over FC Darlaston and a 1-1 draw against AFC Bilbrook.

They are second on goal difference behind Warstones Wanderers, who have netted 15 goals in two games with 8-1 and 7-3 victories over Ludlow and AFC Bridgnorth Development.

Carter and Carrier expect Wanderers to be involved in the promotion race, but have made their intentions clear – they want to be champions.

Carrier added: "This could be a stepping stone, the aim is promotion and we really want to push on here. Hopefully, we can win the league.

"It's no secret what are ambitions are, I think we will be a force to be reckoned with. From what I'm told, Division Two is quite competitive but, hopefully, our experience can take over.

"Outsiders have asked us what we expect to do and the players are experienced enough to go out there and think to themselves 'no one at this level is better than us. We can do it'."

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## DK runners take on train in Welsh race

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club members took on two of the most iconic races of the year.

The weekend kicked off with the Race The Train event, a race over around 14 miles of Welsh countryside from Tywyn following the line of the Talyllin along the valley and back with the aim, as the race title suggests to beat the steam engine back to the finish – something only the very best are able to do.

After narrowly failing to beat the train back to the station twelve months ago Mark Homer was back again hoping to stay on his feet and give the train a good run for its money. Finishing in 1.55.10 in 175th place he had to concede victory to the train, as did Rebecca Warren who was 485th in 2.19.23.

Twenty four hours later a couple of blue hoops took on another tough event, the Leek Half Marathon.

With 1220 feet of uphill and more or less the same in descent it can be considered undulating to the point of mountainous and is the benchmark by which all half marathons are judged for toughness and severe climbs.

Not being put off by its formidable reputation Darran Bishop came home in an impressive time of 1.31.45 to take 14th place and Dave Norman, back for his third attempt over the course, was 17th in 1.33.09. Neither could trouble former DK runner Matt Biggs who was rewarded with fourth place, his recent move to Birchfield Harriers reaping dividends with a near two minute improvement, finishing in 1.21.24.

## Yeltz paid price for a slow start against newboys

**Halesowen Town 1 Farsley Celtic 2**  
HALESOWEN paid the price for a slow start, falling two goals behind before the interval as they slipped to a narrow home defeat in the Evo-Stik Premier.

Nathan Cartman latched on to Ben Atkinson's ball down the left and curled it superbly into the corner of the net from 15 yards after 29 minutes and Walshaw's low drive soon doubled the lead for the newly-promoted visitors from Yorkshire in the 31st minute.

Halesowen's only first-half chance came just before the break when Ben Clarke's 30-yard shot was tipped over the bar by keeper Graeme McKibben.

Substitute Roland Agbor led a much better second half for the Yeltz and he fired a low shot at McKibben in the 54th minute. McKibben then made a fine save to deny Joe Howell in front of goal after Agbor turned provider. Another Agbor shot was saved by McKibben after 67 minutes.

Agbor eventually pulled a goal back in the 87th minute after a neat one-two with James Spraybut it proved to be too little, too late.

## Olympic Games target for young archer



Freya Palmer has won financial help

A BUILDER has given a top Stourbridge archer a cash boost as part of its initiative to help the youngster achieve her Olympic dream.

Wolverhampton-based Persimmon Homes West Midlands launched its Healthy Communities scheme recently with £750 up for grabs each month for the rest of 2017.

The money is to be spent on sports kit, equipment, coaching or facilities.

Fourteen-year-old Freya Palmer was chosen to receive the donation to help upgrade her archery

equipment. The youngster from Wollaston became the National Champion for her age group last month having won the title at the Junior National Championships at Lilleshall in Shropshire.

Freya is part of the Archery GB Performance Academy and aims to shoot for GB internationally and at the 2024 Olympics.

She is the Worcestershire and West Midlands Indoor and Outdoor Champion and holds more than 20 county records and a national record. She is coached every week by Archery GB at Lilleshall.

## Glassboys keeping up pace at top

**Stourbridge 1 Nantwich Town 1**  
STOURBRIDGE maintained their unbeaten start to the season but were left hanging on in the second half after a powerful 45 minutes from the visitors.

Jordan Archer with his fifth goal of the season gave the Glassboys a half time lead with a great finish on 17 minutes, and that was really the sum total of chances in a poor first period.

If Nantwich looked slightly on the back front in the first half, they came out all guns blazing and equalised on 50 minutes through Matthew Bell who got on the end of Casper Hughes' clever chipped cross from the left to score from the edge of the box.

The introduction of Sean Cooke and former Halesowen player Kaiman Anderson proved pivotal for the visitors, the former immediately shooting just wide. Cooke looked very dangerous and another substitute, Stephen Jones should have scored from the edge of the box.

Cooke almost won it on 85 minutes when Gould came out to make a clearance and Cooke sent the ball just over the bar from 30 yards. Stourbridge's only chance of the half came when Daryl Westlake chipped over on 59 minutes.

**Whitby 1 Stourbridge 3**

Stourbridge remained among early-season frontrunners in the Evo-Stik Premier after pulling off a pleasing victory on the North Yorkshire coast.

The Glassboys made a glorious start when central defender Jack Duggan headed Josh Green's free-kick across goal for defensive partner Paul McCone to crash home after just nine minutes.

Whitby managed to equalise on 23 minutes when Luke Bythway blasted home a stunning 25-yard free-kick which gave Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Gould no chance.

Stour were back in front just after the half-hour mark when Danny O'Callaghan sent Archer clear, who got the better of Bythway before firing home past Whitby goalkeeper Shane Bland.

Stourbridge had to wait until the 81st minute before making certain of the points when Archer combined with Ryan Rowe before slotting home his second goal.

Stourbridge should have gone on to win by a wider margin as twice O'Callaghan went close, just wide on 88 minutes and then denied again a minute into stoppage time by Bland.

\*\*\*  
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# HEATHENS FACE VITAL CLASH

**CRADLEY launched a dramatic comeback but had to settle for a 43-43 draw against local rivals Birmingham at Monmore Green on Monday.**

The play-off chasing National League sides played out a thriller but there was nothing to separate the sides.

Heathens now face a must-win Bank Holiday clash with top of the table Belle Vue at Monmore Green on Bank Holiday Monday.

The Heathens' top four hopes looked to be in tatters as they threw away a number of points and were on the receiving end of some controversial refereeing decisions early on Monday night.

Costly mistakes left Will Pottinger's side on the back foot before they rallied to pull level with three races remaining. But they were unable to complete what would have been a remarkable comeback with skipper Tom Perry and Danny Ayres not able to overhaul maximum man Liam Carr in a tense heat 15 decider.

Whilst they could be forgiven for being pleased with a draw given the circumstances, skipper Perry conceded they were frustrated. "We're not really pleased because we wanted the win," he said. "I think we did well to pull it back but we might have had that extra push in the last couple.

### Chance

"At least we managed to avoid getting beat and we still have a chance after that. We just can't afford to drop any more points to have a chance to be in those play-offs."

They were 10 points down after nine heats and in need of a miracle but fought back to force a last-heat decider.

Perry kick-started the comeback by blasting from third to first with a brave ride in heat 10. Reserve Conor Dwyer sensationally partnered Danny Ayres to a 5-1 in the next race before Dwyer and Harris repeated the trick in heat 12.

They headed into the final race level and despite shutting out Tom Bacon, Perry and Ayres were unable to hunt down the impeccable Carr.

## Rutter goes retro at Classic TT



Michael Rutter will be hoping for double success on his 350cc G50 Matchless at the TT races

VISITORS to the Isle of Man often say the trip is a step back in time and e Hill-born racer Michael Rutter will be racing the same Ducati his father rode to victory at the TT in the 1970s in the Classic Superbike race on Monday.

The 45-year-old has also entered the Senior Classic TT and Lightweight Classic TT on Saturday, and the Junior Classic TT on Monday.

"I've been given some special leathers to

wear when I ride dad's old bike by Alpinestars, which are exactly the same as the ones he wore," said Rutter.

"I'm riding a 750cc Ducati in the in the Superbike race on the Monday morning, then it's the Ripley Land G50 Matchless during the afternoon. I'll be racing the same Ducati my dad raced with the Red Fox team, and finally the Ripley Land Racing Honda 350cc."

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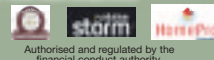
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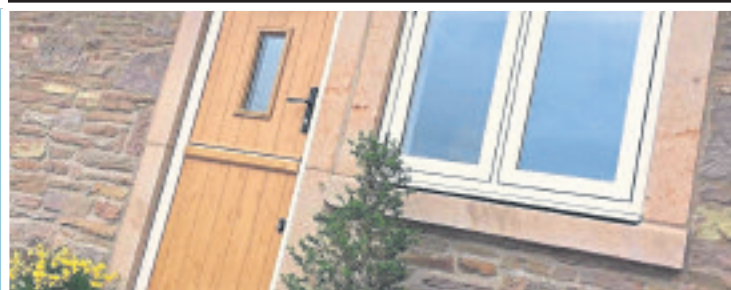


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